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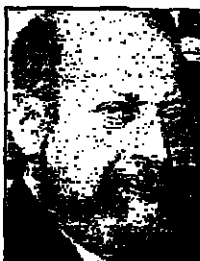
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of selection

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The moral dilemma
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FREUD ON FRIDAY

To Georgetown, for
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THE TIMES

No. 64,905

FRIDAY MARCH 18 1994

Flying visit by Major to Bosnia

By PHILIP WEBSTER
AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE

JOHN Major flew out to Sarajevo last night, on a visit shrouded in secrecy for security reasons, to boost the morale of British troops in the war zone. As he did so, a deal was struck between the republic's Muslims and Serbs to lift the two-year siege of the Bosnian capital.

The Prime Minister's one-day visit is seen as a mark of how safe Sarajevo has become since a ceasefire took hold last month. He is also expected to fly to Vitez to meet British troops, and will meet Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, British commander of United Nations troops in Bosnia.

The visit was announced as Bosnian Muslims and Serbs

signed an agreement allowing civilians freedom of movement into and out of the city for the first time in almost two years. The deal, signed at the airport, is due to take effect on Wednesday and opens up a bridge and key roads linking Serb and Muslim sections of the city. It also frees a route from Sarajevo into central Bosnia, controlled by Muslims and Croats.

Mr Major's trip sets the seal on a marked change in policy. Only two months ago, ministers were talking about withdrawing troops. Within the past week the British contingent has increased to 3,300 with the arrival of 900 men from the 1st Battalion the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and the Light Dragoons. Today Mr Major makes a high-speed tour by helicopter and car to

see as many British troops as possible. The visit, planned in strict secrecy, was disclosed by UN officials yesterday, causing irritation in Downing Street. Details are being withheld for security reasons. British officials said that Mr Major wanted to see the conditions in which British forces are working, and to receive a briefing from General Rose.

Baroness Chalker, the Overseas Aid Minister, meanwhile flew in to the Muslim stronghold of Tuzla yesterday with a promise of £2 million to spur relief efforts in central Bosnia. Britain will provide 22 lorries to increase food distribution and will run daily aid flights into the airport as soon as it is reopened, she announced. The baroness, wearing a flak jacket

under her coat, landed at the airport by helicopter, the first minister of any foreign government to do so since it was taken under UN control ten days ago.

While in Sarajevo, the Prime Minister will look at moves to rebuild the city after the punishing Serb siege and discuss the work of a restoration mission set up jointly with President Clinton during his visit to Washington last month. He wants to assess the situation on the ground, and discuss future military and aid requirements should the truces around Sarajevo and across central Bosnia be extended. He also wishes to consider how the burden of future help could best be shared among UN member countries.

The trip is seen as an important show of support for General Rose

after a difficult period during which the commander has been pleading for extra troops to police the spreading ceasefire areas in the republic. It is Mr Major's first visit to Bosnia since Christmas 1992.

The agreement to end the strangulating siege of Sarajevo, signed under UN supervision, should open a route out of the city for many people who have been unable to leave since the war began. Since last month's ceasefire, Sarajevo has begun a slow return to a more normal life. Electricity is still a problem and life is far from routine. But trams are running again, and only small-arms fire occasionally rings out.

Although the agreement will not permit commercial or military traffic on the road leading from

Sarajevo to Visoko and on to Zenica in central Bosnia, it envisages free passage to civilians in buses or cars under UN escort.

The agreement is the latest and perhaps most significant indication that the Bosnian war is winding down after nearly two years of bloodshed that has left more than 200,000 people dead or missing. It follows the Serb withdrawal of heavy guns from the immediate vicinity of the Bosnian capital and a tentative agreement between Muslims and Croats to stop fighting, reform their alliance and create a federation.

The agreement still leaves a number of conditions on the freedom of movement. People wanting to cross some former front lines within Sarajevo have to apply 24

hours in advance, and it was clear that permission could always be refused.

In Tuzla, Lady Chalker was shown around the airport by the senior British officer there, Lieutenant-Colonel George Young. Serb artillery and tank positions overlook the airport and town from a hill six miles away, and only last week two people died and three were injured by shells.

Colonel Young said: "There's no specific ceasefire agreement in this area and shelling along the confrontation line continues. What's noticeable is that there is a greater air of confidence among the local people here that there might be a solution."

Owen interview, page 10

Bonn hint of help bolsters Hurd in EU row

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

DOUGLAS Hurd last night launched a last-ditch attempt to secure German backing to resolve the voting row in the European Union.

The Foreign Secretary spoke to Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister, and was reported by aides to have been encouraged. He made the call after winning Cabinet backing for his efforts to reach a negotiated compromise that prevents Britain's voting influence in the enlarged European Union from being diluted.

Born appears to be determined to promote a solution that can prevent a full-scale crisis. Further talks between British and German officials will be held over the next few days, and more discussions between Mr Hurd and Herr Kinkel are not ruled out.

Mr Hurd is understood to be seeking Bonn's support for a compromise that would allow the existing blocking vote of two large EU countries and a small one — being retained in some circumstances. In return, Britain may agree that the blocking vote be raised to 27 from 23.

Germany, whose own position would suffer for five soldiers missing on a mountain where local people have been known to vanish without trace.

Rescuers began climbing Mount Kinabalu, in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo, highest peak in Southeast Asia, looking for two British Army officers and three Hong Kong soldiers last seen nearly a fortnight ago. More than 100 Malay soldiers, backed by park rangers and villagers,



RAF scours Malay peak for lost soldiers

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE Royal Air Force yesterday began searching for five soldiers missing on a mountain where local people have been known to vanish without trace.

Rescuers began climbing Mount Kinabalu, in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo, highest peak in Southeast Asia, looking for two British Army officers and three Hong Kong soldiers last seen nearly a fortnight ago. More than 100 Malay soldiers, backed by park rangers and villagers,

are also searching thick jungle on the lower slopes. The missing men were in a party of ten who organised a training expedition to the mountain. They set out for a ten-day trek on February 22. At the 4,100 m (13,450 ft) summit, the party split in half for the descent. The first five emerged from the jungle on Saturday, exhausted and malnourished.

One of them, Corporal Hugh Britton, borrowed a local helicopter to search for his comrades. But, finding nothing, he telephoned his girlfriend to get a message to his

commanding officer in England. The five survivors have been flown to Hong Kong, where two are being treated at the British Military Hospital. They last saw their comrades about to descend into Low's Gully, a sheer 5,400 ft drop named after the British officer who first conquered the mountain in 1851.

This is the first peacetime RAF mountain rescue mission abroad, and members of the 17-man team were chosen for their experience of mountaineering. The team arrived on Tuesday, and yesterday 16 of

them split into two groups of eight to climb to the peak. The Malays will head into the gully from below.

The Ministry of Defence said the missing British officers were Lieutenant Colonel Robert Neill, 46, of the Royal Logistics Corps, and Major Ronald Foster, 54. They were with three Hong Kong Chinese junior non-commissioned officers.

Major Rob Weighill, at British forces headquarters in Hong Kong, said the missing men had enough food to last for 20 days, but could survive

longer if they remained inactive and had water. Although the southern approach to the mountain is a popular climb, the northern descent via Low's Gully is fearsome and dangerous.

"Only two men have come down this face before," said Wilfred Lingham, permanent secretary to the local ministry of tourism. "We told them [the soldiers] that there was no way park rescuers could reach them if they got into difficulty."

Forbidding face, page 3

I was a teenage bomb-maker and delinquent, says general

By BILL FROST

SIR Peter de la Billière, Britain's commander in the Gulf war, has confessed that he was a teenage delinquent with a taste for larceny, experimental bomb-making and illicit drinking.

Repenting his wild ways yesterday, he told *The Times* that those in authority should make greater efforts to ensure that young people did not follow in his early footsteps. "There is a need for society to provide much better opportunities for the young now. My life was opened up by joining the services, but what are we doing for youth today? If we believe something is wrong we should not just ask 'why'. We must do something about the problem," Sir Peter said.

His youth was "a shocking story", he writes in the latest issue of *The Legion*, journal of the Royal British Legion. Recalling his youth in the third person, he says: "This boy was brought up in a service family.

His father gave his life in action, and his mother had to struggle to bring up two obstinate young boys suffering from a lack of discipline around the home.

"The lad took full advantage of his freedom as he saw it, and started to develop as a society misfit. He pinched the daffodils in a neighbouring

farmer's field and sold them for a profit on a house-to-house marketing campaign.

"He acquired explosives by underhand means and practised elementary bomb-making. At school his studies were his lowest priorities. He became adept at smuggling in illicit drink and ably led teenage boozing parties. On several occasions he absconded (from school) when the routine became too boring."

He continues, still in the third person: "It was to his school's delight that he left at 16 with the clear intention of roaming the world, as a homeless self-reject from society, seeking adventure where it might be found and with no aim or sense of purpose in life."

There was a happy ending, however. At 17 he joined the army as a regular with the rank of private, and he left the service 41 years later after commanding British forces in the Gulf.



Sir Peter: life opened up after joining the services

Atherton's Test 'ton'

England skipper Mike Atherton scored a remarkable century to help his side recover from a bad start against the West Indies in the second Test at Georgetown, Guyana.

He shared a 177-run partnership with Robin Smith (84) after England lost two wickets for two runs. Courtney Walsh, dismissing Alec Stewart and Mark Ramprakash, after being put in to bat.

Atherton completed his fourth Test century off 219 balls, including 11 boundaries, out of 202.3. Page 40

Parents 'killed with rice flail'

Roderick Newall, 28, a former army officer, beat his parents to death with a martial arts rice flail in 1987 in a drunken row about his career and childhood, a Jersey court was told.

Newall, who was extradited from Gibraltar, has pleaded guilty to murder; he was committed for trial to Jersey's Royal Court. Page 5

WEEKEND

First, kill your boss ...

Frances Bissell, *The Times* Cook, on what to do with a wild pig

WIN Dinner for eight, cooked by Albert Roux in your home

WEEKEND MONEY

The hidden costs of car boot sales

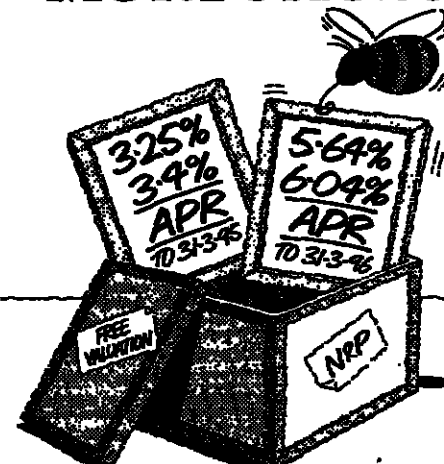
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Helen Mirren, prime suspect for success on the London stage

VISION

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Togo, Botswana, Mongolia, Paraguay and Chad featured prominently in Prime Minister's questions yesterday. The exchange was far from beyond measure. Henry Bellingham (C, Norfolk NW) started it.

Did the PM realise, sir, that the young Etonian (who models himself on the Monty Python concept of an upper-class Englishman) that Labour-controlled Birmingham and Manchester city councils had debts greater than Paraguay and El Salvador, respectively?

Indeed the PM did. A little bird may have told him that

this might be in Mr Bellingham's thoughts. But Labour's deputy leader, Margaret Beckett, was ready, too. Did Mr Major realise, she sneered, that Tory-controlled Westminster's debts exceeded those of Mongolia? Major was as ready for her as she had been for him. He said that Labour-controlled Islington and Bradford had larger debts than Togo, Chad and Botswana.

But here arises an interesting question. Does John Major go around with figures for the total indebtedness of Togo, Chad and Botswana, plus comparisons with Islington and Bradford, in his head? Or had he swotted them up beforehand? And, if he had, why did he not use his prepared comeback for the Bellingham question? One likes to hope that Major felt ashamed to trot out a ready-made answer to a set-up question from a Tory poole. He unleashed it on Beckett instead.

Within minutes, an Opposition response was circulating the press lobbies at Westminster. Apparently Mr Major's Government has borrowed more in a single year than the People's Republic of China has in fifty.

Frankly we can all play this game until the cows come

home. We can reveal, for instance, that Lloyd's losses, to which Mr Bellingham's syndicate made a healthy contribution — losing nearly half of its members' investments — were three times the foreign debt of Costa Rica, seven times that of Malawi, and 50 times bigger than

Swaziland's. Ecuador, overdrawn to the tune of only \$1.25 billion, is a model of financial prudence compared with the enterprise in which Mr B chose to place the Bellingham fortunes. They would be dancing in the streets of Addis Ababa if the Ethiopian prime minister could find for his nation's coffers a quarter of the sum that the outfit tipped by Mr Bellingham, and more than 50 other Conservative MPs, has lost...

We could, as I say, all play this game. We could observe to the Labour Party that the only reason why Britain's borrowing is such a high multiple of China's is that China hardly borrows, and never has. We could remind the Tory back benches that Paraguay has always been one of the lowest borrowers in Latin America. We could point out that Manchester or Birmingham, and possibly even Islington, have larger gross domestic products than

Chad. We could remind both sides that official figures for Third World indebtedness are as long as a piece of string anyway...

But why bother? It keeps them happy. As Walter Bagehot observed more than a century ago, after every general election we send some 600 people down to Westminster, there to remain for four or five years... and the question arises, What are they to do?

Mr Bellingham and Mrs Beckett did nobody any harm yesterday. Who knows, perhaps they made the headlines in Chad.

MPs' pointless games go from Chad to worse

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Major rushes out plan for nursery vouchers

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

JOHN Major has given the go-ahead for plans to expand nursery education through a voucher scheme to be unveiled within weeks, before the local elections in May.

After months of speculation, Whitehall is putting the finishing touches to a range of options that will be published next month. The Prime Minister sees pre-school education as a vote-winner and has accelerated the Government's planning to steal a march on his opponents.

Vouchers, long a favourite of the Conservative right, would mix state and private services to offer the maximum number of pre-school places.

The scheme would be in use before the next general elec-

tion. The decision to forge ahead explains the abrupt rejection by ministers yesterday of an alternative scheme that would mean children starting primary school at six years of age instead of five.

A report by the Royal Society of Arts recommended the later start to full-time schooling to make way for three years of half-day nursery education. The scheme had been examined by Downing Street advisers anxious to carry out Mr Major's pledge to provide more nursery places.

But proposals being finalised in the Education Department reject changes to statutory school ages. The department's scheme would offer parents free places for

their children at nurseries or playgroups, subject to a means test to make best use of substantial extra public spending on low-income groups.

Both Mr Major and John Patten, the Education Secretary, want to maintain the current variety of services to preserve parental choice. The new system would end the wide disparity in provision in different parts of England and Wales.

Mr Major confirmed his commitment to universal nursery provision at Commons question time yesterday but gave no hint of the Government's plans. He said: "We have made it perfectly clear that as and when re-

sources are available, we shall move towards further nursery education, towards universal nursery education."

Mr Patten had already given a curt response to yesterday's arts society report *Start Right*. He described the proposal to raise the school starting age from five to six as absurd, adding that he had no intention of introducing compulsory education at three or four, as the report suggested.

Sir Christopher Ball, the former warden of Keble College, Oxford, and the report's author, accused Mr Patten of adopting a "short-term political knee-jerk reaction to a long-term social challenge". He was disappointed by the response but remained convinced there would be a change of heart in the long term.

Labour and the Liberal Democrats also opposed a later start to school. Ann Taylor, for Labour, said that any change should be made on educational, not financial, grounds. Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, said that the expansion of nursery education should be financed from taxation.

Sir Christopher's proposals, which did not all have the backing of the society's working party, included a strong back-to-basics message. Parents would contract to stay together until their youngest child was 16 and would be required to attend parenting classes to qualify for child benefit.

The report called for a guarantee of free part-time nursery education from the age of three before the end of the century. Putting back the start of school from five to six would put Britain in line with most of the rest of Europe, as well as making some of the savings necessary to expand nurseries.

Sir Christopher estimated that his scheme would cost up to £500 million, half the cost of full provision for all three and four-year-olds.

Leading article, page 17

Britain lags in early learning

By BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN and The Netherlands are "laggards" as European countries try to satisfy a growing demand for pre-school education, according to a report yesterday by the Royal Society of Arts.

Both start compulsory state education at five, yet attach less importance to early learning than other European nations, where children usually enter primary school aged six.

The report, *Start Right*, says that Denmark leads the field with a high-quality service funded by the government — and a compulsory school age of seven — and highlights the performance of France, Italy and Germany.

Britain, it says, is using playgroups and early entry to primary schools as substitutes for proper nursery provision. "The lesson from abroad is that Britain is not only on the wrong track, but dangerously ignorant (or complacent) about its situation."

The report argues: "Unfortunately, children attend playgroups on average for only five to six hours a week, and early entry to primary

Country	Compulsory school age	% children in publicly funded services	3-5	5-6
Belgium	6	97	98	98
Denmark	7	76	81	79
Finland	7	44	48	53
France	6	98	100	99
Germany	6	98	99	99
Greece	5.5	—	CS	88*
Ireland	6	11	58	98
Italy	6	—	CS	51*
Luxembourg	5	7	95	CS
Netherlands	5	1	98	CS
Norway	7	49	80	83
Portugal	6	28	44	45
Spain	6	28	94	100
Sweden	7	83	67	88
Switzerland	5	41	58	CS

CS: 5-year-olds covered wholly or partly by compulsory schooling.
* A source of publicly funded provision is omitted for lack of data.
A substantial qualification required for statistics on 3-5 age group.
Source: Start Right report.

schools tends to lead to the premature introduction of the formal curriculum and inappropriate adult-child ratios.

In France, pre-school primaries, *écoles maternelles*, catering for two to five-year-olds, serve almost all children aged three to five. Formal compulsory education starts at six.

The *écoles maternelles* usually open from 8.30am to 4.30pm, with supervision and meals during a two-hour lunch break. Additional out-of-school-hours child care is

available for working parents. About one-third of children start aged two, with parents paying fees linked to income.

Bonn has vowed to provide kindergarten places for all German children aged three to six by 1996. In the east, kindergartens open for 10 to 12 hours a day, with places for 95 per cent of children.

In Italy, nine of ten children aged three to five attend public and private full-time nurseries six days a week. There is no formal curriculum.



Clinton unrepentant over Sinn Fein leader's visit

By MARTIN FLETCHER AND NICHOLAS WATT

PRESIDENT Clinton refused to concede yesterday that his decision to admit Gerry Adams to America last month had been a mistake.

Mr Clinton also hailed as a "very heartening statement" the St Patrick's Day message from Mr Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, in which he claimed that the IRA genuinely wanted peace despite its attacks on Heathrow airport.

But Tom Foley, the Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives and a prominent Irish-American, made a scathing attack on the IRA yesterday and criticised the President's decision to grant a visa to Mr Adams.

Mr Foley, who is a key influence within the Washington Administration, told the BBC: "The attacks on Heathrow are the worst kind of terrorist threat — the threat to innocent civilians was contemptible."

Also, Downing Street reacted frostily to the President's defence of Mr Adams' visit. "President Clinton's words are his own," a senior aide said in a remark indicating that John Major would not share the US leader's generous view of the Sinn Fein president.

Mr Clinton, in his first public comment on the issue since Mr Adams' triumphant visit, said he still believed "that the decision I made on the visa was the correct one".

Speaking at a St Patrick's Day ceremony at the White House with Albert Reynolds, the Irish Prime Minister, Mr Clinton reiterated his support for the Anglo-Irish peace effort, urged Sinn Fein to join the process and appealed to "all those who practise violence for political aims to lay down their arms".

"We all have to take some chances for peace. I think when Gerry Adams came here he saw that the Irish in America want peace. They

want him to be part of the peace process." However, America's 40 million citizens of Irish descent celebrated their national origins yesterday with little more than a sideways glance at events in Northern Ireland.

St Patrick's Day has traditionally provided American IRA supporters with an opportunity to voice their views, but this year a bitter debate over homosexuality has largely eclipsed the issue of Ulster.

The most vocal protests at New York's parade came from the Irish Gay and Lesbian Organisation, which had been barred from taking part by the event's sponsors, the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

The Boston parade was cancelled when organisers announced they would rather stay at home than march beside homosexuals.

Shamrock ceremony, page 16
Diary, page 16

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DEC 08

Missing women knew murder victim

The five missing women located by police working on the Gloucester murder enquiry were all friends of Shirley Robinson, whose body is believed to be one of the nine recovered from 25 Cromwell Street. Police had been anxious to trace the women after seeing photographs of them with Miss Robinson, an 18-year-old former lodger at the house.

"They were put in touch with their families who were all concerned about them because they knew the women had been friends of Shirley's," Chief Insp Colin Handy, of Gloucestershire police, said. He added that a further 80 girls and women had made contact with their families after a national appeal by the Missing Persons Bureau.

Lifeline for Bart's

The High Court has granted Hackney and Islington councils leave for a judicial review of the Government's decision to close the Bart's Hospital accident and emergency department in central London. The move will lead to an examination of the proposed rationalisation of the capital's healthcare provisions.

Police to debate arms

The issue of arming police officers will be discussed by the Association of Chief Police Officers next month. It is the first time in recent years that it has been put on the agenda. Jim Sharpley, the Merseyside Chief Constable, said that, while there was "certainly no consensus", Acpo would assess its position given the increase in armed incidents.

Mystery man located

Police believe they know the identity of a man who walked into a hospital casualty department in Westminster, Wilshire, on Tuesday after losing his memory and appealed for help. The only clue to his identity was a small note saying "Roger, phone me later, Peter". Wilshire police believe the man is single, aged 49, and is from Bristol.

Search for witnesses

Police have appealed for the driver of a black taxi and other witnesses to come forward after an unnamed man in his twenties was stabbed to death in a restaurant in north London yesterday. A man of 27, who voluntarily attended Muswell Hill police station, was being questioned about the killing.

Libel case order to 'disfigured Jackson'

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Jackson's threatened libel action over tabloid allegations that he was "hideously disfigured" by plastic surgery cannot go ahead unless he submits to a medical examination, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

Lord Justice Neill, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Lords Justice Slynn and Lord Justice Peter Gibson, issued a "stay" on the action started by Jackson over *Daily Mirror* articles in June and July 1992.

Until the pop star allows a medical expert for the defence to examine his face, then the action could not go ahead, they said. Lord Justice Neill said the examination, which could also be attended by one



Jackson: admits nose and chin surgery

of Jackson's doctors, should take place in "proper lighting conditions".

The judges' ruling came as they allowed an appeal by *Mirror* Group Newspapers

and the former editor of the *Daily Mirror*, Richard Stott, against earlier orders by Mr Justice Drake in which he refused to "stay" the proceedings. Yesterday Lord Justice Neill said that the newspaper would be under an unfair disadvantage if it was required to supply medical reports — based solely on photographs of the singer.

The judge said the singer, aged 35, claimed the articles meant his features had become "hideously distorted" and his face "hideously disfigured" by plastic surgery.

Jackson also claimed they meant he kept out of the limelight and wore dark glasses to disguise his condition and had banned photographers from taking close-up shots of him.

He also alleged malice, saying the photos used by the newspaper gave a distorted and misleading picture of his appearance.

The singer supplied the court with a sworn statement, admitting four plastic surgery procedures on his nose and the creation of a chin cleft. He made no admissions over surgery on his lips, cheeks or eyes.

The newspaper denied those meanings and pleaded a defence of justification and fair comment.

It claimed the articles meant the singer had caused his face to become "disfigured, scarred and a mess" as a result of extensive plastic surgery stemming from his yearning for perfect looks and to stay young.

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Victim demands better protection for police after 'maniac' stabbed her in heart

Addict gets 15 years for screwdriver attack on WPC

By Emma Wilkins

THE policewoman who was stabbed through the heart with a screwdriver was relieved and delighted as her attacker was jailed for 15 years yesterday.

WPC Leslie Harrison, who cannot take strenuous exercise but hopes to return to full-time duty, called for better protection for officers as Stephen Doyle, a heroin addict, was found guilty of attempted murder by Preston Crown Court.

Doyle, 29, of Everton, Liverpool, stabbed WPC Harrison, an officer with Merseyside police, twice in the heart and arm as she tried to arrest him during an attempted burglary at Wavertree, Liverpool, in December 1992.

WPC Harrison, 30, continued to lead four colleagues chasing Doyle before collapsing in a pool of blood. Doyle threw off the four other officers "like a maniac with the strength of ten men", the court was told during the three-week trial.

Doctors who treated WPC Harrison said her injuries were so severe that she was minutes away from death. She now suffers breathlessness and chest pain. Harry Wagner, one of the other officers, was so traumatised by the attack that he has resigned after 23 years' service in the police force.

WPC Harrison spoke of her uncertain future after the case and called for better protection for police officers. "Obviously I am very relieved with the result. I couldn't have hoped for a better sentence. Stephen Doyle is a very dangerous man and it is just and right that he should be off the streets so that this kind of attack does not happen to anyone else."

"I now want to look to the future. My serious injuries, from which I am far from fully recovered, make that future uncertain. I now need the opportunity to take stock."

"I hope the publicity this case has attracted will help highlight the need for more



Stephen Doyle, above, has a criminal record stretching back to 1977, when he was convicted, aged 12, of taking a car. Offences including burglary, car crime and violence saw him serve spells in a detention centre and prison.

In the months before his attack on WPC Harrison, he had appeared before magistrates twice on charges of assaulting police officers, but was given bail. A spokesman for the Crown Prosecution Service said: "In neither case did we feel that circumstances warranted bail being opposed. At that time, a defendant's previous record was not sufficient grounds for opposing bail."

Under the terms of the Criminal Justice Bill now going through Parliament, anyone committing offences on bail will face automatic custody.

and better protection of police officers against violent attack. It could have been any one of us who got injured that night. Unfortunately it was me," she said.

Sentencing Doyle, Mrs Justice Smith said: "This was a very determined and very violent attack on a police officer in the execution of her duty."

"Were it not for a combination of great good luck and superb medical treatment, she would have lost her life. You have shown no sense of remorse for what you have done and that is the impression I

have got of you in the last few weeks of this trial."

There was uproar in the court as Doyle's family and friends screamed abuse when the jury returned its unanimous verdict. They shouted again when the judge delivered the sentence and were bundled out of the public gallery by police.

Doyle was found guilty on Wednesday of a total of nine other offences, including attempting to wound the four other police officers and a taxi driver, whose cab he hijacked. He was also convicted of attempted burglary and aggravated vehicle taking. All the prison sentences will run concurrently with the 15-year term.

The cab driver, Terry Malone, who hid in his taxi when Doyle attempted to drive it away, was awarded £500 from public funds by the judge for his bravery.

Mr Wagner said yesterday that the events of the night persuaded him to resign from the force. He received psychiatric counselling after the attack. "I had been attacked a couple of weeks earlier by someone wielding a bread knife. I felt I couldn't contain the situation anymore."

He said the protection police officers received was "minimal", and that the force was undermanned.

WPC Ruth Polhill, another of the officers who chased Doyle, said: "I definitely think he off the streets for a good long time and the streets will be a lot safer without him there."

PC David Murray said the 12 inch-long baton with which he was issued that night did not give him enough protection. "We could not get close enough to Doyle to arrest him," he said.

Merseyside police are among several forces now evaluating new American-style police batons. Pauline Clark, Assistant Chief Constable of Merseyside police (operations), said the new, longer batons, gave officers more confidence.



WPC Leslie Harrison arriving at Preston Crown Court to hear the verdict against her attacker Stephen Doyle

A life pushed on to the sidelines

By Ronald Fairs and Emma Wilkins

LESLIE Harrison, who used to enjoy playing netball and watching football with her parents, still feels pain in her chest and suffers breathlessness because of the stabbing. She was within minutes of death when taken to hospital on the night of December 21, 1992.

Nicholas Davies, 31, had to cut open 2ft of her rib cage and thrust a finger into the heart wound to stem the flow of blood. Mr Davies said: "If the blood from the heart had not remained in the sac surrounding

the heart Leslie would have died before reaching the hospital. During the course of the operation she probably had her whole volume of blood changed."

WPC Harrison, who lives in Warrington with Barry Pitt, her boy friend, a former policeman, set up her own local netball team with a group of friends. Now she cannot play for more than 15 minutes and has to content herself with coaching from the sidelines.

She used to enjoy visiting her parents at their home in Eccles, Greater Manchester, but she is no longer able to

spend the whole evening with them as she tires easily.

The attack was the fourth time WPC Harrison had been injured in her five years as a police officer. She was hit on the head with a brick while patrolling in Tuxford in 1990; she dislocated a shoulder after chasing a burglar suspect and was off work for almost five months; and less than a year before Stephen Doyle's attack she was beaten up in Wavertree.

WPC Harrison has always spoken of her wish to return to full-time duty and she often visits police colleagues.

Gang who 'bricked' police gets 60 years

By Andrew Pierce

JAIL sentences totalling almost 60 years were imposed yesterday on a gang of ten youths after a brick attack on a police patrol car that almost killed one of the officers inside.

PC John Robinson, 38, suffered brain damage when the brick smashed his windshield on the Pennywell estate in Sunderland. He has since left the force for medical reasons. His life was only saved because his colleague, PC Mick Mohon, 31, reached a hospital intensive care unit within two minutes of the attack last February.

Newcastle Crown Court was told that PC Mohon, who was commended for his quick thinking, has been on sick leave since the incident.

Judge Paling, passing sentence at the end of the four-week trial, said the gang was in a state of "complete lawlessness". The court was told that Anthony Christie, 21, shouted "bullseye" as his brick struck its target.

Christie, Malcolm Wood, 19, Lee Conley, 18, and Patrick Kearney, 19, admitted two counts of conspiring to damage vehicles and road users. They received nine years. Paul Stephens, 22, Anthony Timby, 18 and Alan Joliff, 17, admitted conspiring to endanger road users. Stephens and Timby received five years and Joliff received 11 months. A 15-year-old who admitted the same charge received nine months.

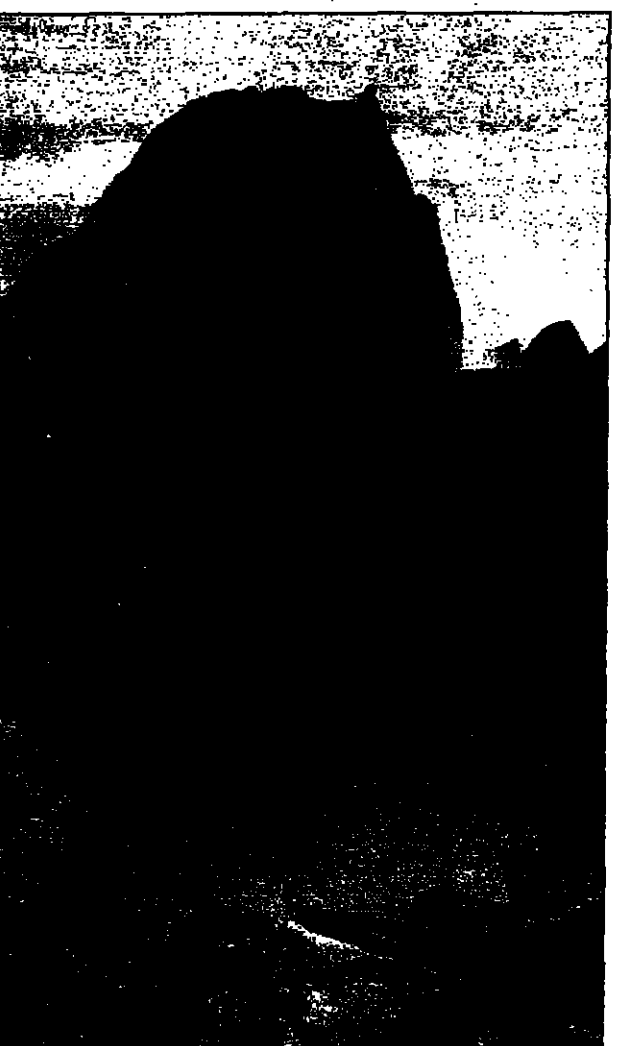
Ian Scale, 24, and Michael Scott, 18, denied both the charges. They were convicted by the jury and each received five years. All the defendants lived on the estate.

Richard Coyles, chairman of the Police Federation, welcomed the sentence. He said: "For once the judiciary has shown jobs that violence does not pay. Perhaps we should have a few more women judges. They seem to have more sense."

Mr Alan Brown, Northumbria's Assistant Chief Constable, said: "The sentences are an important message: we will not tolerate violence towards any police officer. We feel that justice has been done today."

The court was told that the practice of "bricking police cars" had died out on the estate after the attack.

Forbidding face of Kinabalu



View across Low's Gully, which the local people believed was inhabited by a dragon guarding a pearl

Mark Herbert, who has climbed Mount Kinabalu twice, tells of the conditions confronting the missing soldiers

MOUNT Kinabalu has two distinct faces. Seen from the Kota Kinabalu side, the summit resembles a formidable, castellated rampart of bare rock, with the lower slopes clothed in thick forest. The summit's trail runs up this face and the ascent is a one-and-a-half day slog, which is attempted by hundreds every month.

Few people, however, have seen the second, hidden face, from south of the mountain where the five soldiers have disappeared. There are no roads or villages, and few people, as it is national park. The terrain is dominated by Low's Gully, a deep channel hacked into the mountain by glaciers in the last ice age.

It rains almost daily on Kinabalu and the summit is usually shrouded in cloud by 9am. Climbing the mountain by the conventional route begins at 5,000ft at the national park headquarters and runs via the foothills to the overnight hostels situated at 11,500ft under the summit's plateau. It is a physically, but not technically, demanding stage and the park recommends only climbing boots, warm clothes and waterproofs.

The second day begins at

3am to reach the summit in time for dawn. Climbers pull themselves up a perilous summit plateau of bare granite using fixed ropes. Stumbling by starlight over what is effectively an icy, uneven, giant pavement, often in high winds and while suffering altitude sickness, is a draining experience.

Once the sun rises, the view is spectacular: the coast and islands to the north, the endless ranges of rugged mountains to the west, and behind, Low's Gully.

Many of the features bare the legacy of William Low, a colonial officer who made the first recorded ascent in 1891. Then the mountain was sacred to the local Kadazan people, who believed the spirits of their ancestors lived there.

They also believed that a dragon lived in the gully, guarding a giant pearl. At first light it is easy to see how such a myth arose for it is a dark, eerie place. The summit plateau forms a half-mile horseshoe around the gully, which plunges 400ft in a sheer drop with only bare rock to hold on to before easing out towards the treetops.

The sun scarcely shines here. Frequently, cloud bubbles up the gully while the summit is still clear and, after rain, mountain guides advise caution around the lip. Further down, the rubble soil is unstable and prone to slipping, and below that at about 10,000ft is a band of impenetrable, stunted moss forest.

To obtain porters, Low was forced to slaughter chickens in the pools around the summit peak; and once on the summit he toasted the empire in port, then left the bottle containing a card with his name on it on the top. That tradition survived until the 1970s, when broken glass and inebriated climbers were discouraged. Now coins are tossed into the sacrificial pools, and more pertinent, the park authorities insist on local guides, whatever the standard of the climbers.

Soldiers missing, page 1

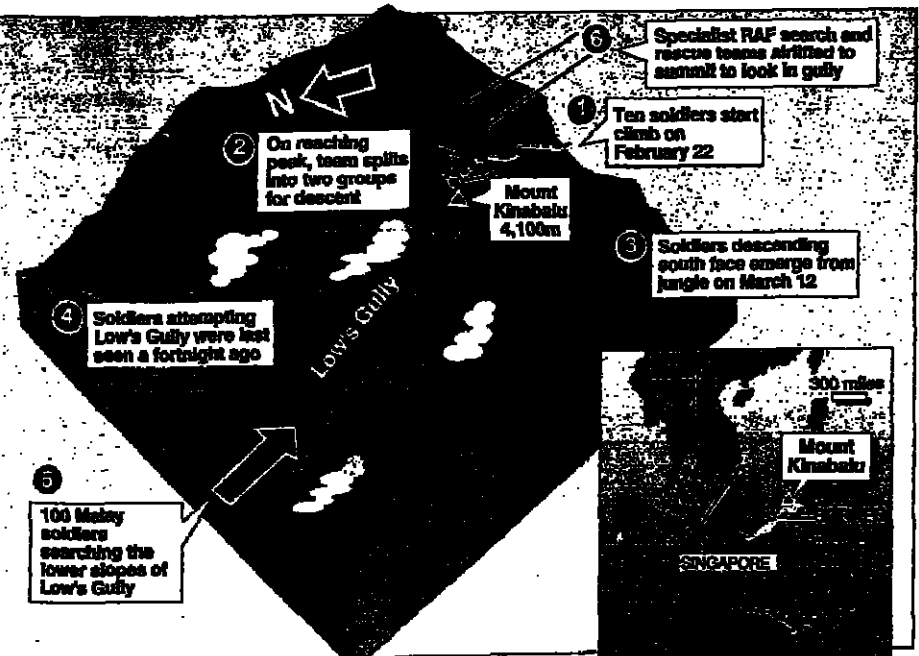
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Court rules Howard acted illegally by allowing police raid

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Howard illegally authorised Scotland Yard to seek warrants to raid a firm of accountants and the offices of a leading firm of international solicitors, the High Court ruled yesterday.

The Home Secretary had failed to follow correct procedures when the Australian authorities requested the seizure of documents as part of a multi-million pound tax evasion investigation. Instead of deciding what legal action was appropriate, Mr Howard wrongly passed on that responsibility to the Metropolitan Police.

Mr Justice Laws said: "The Secretary of State has not only the responsibility of deciding whether assistance should be given to the requesting state, in our view he must also decide what assistance should be given."

There could be far-reaching implications as a result of yesterday's ruling because the Home Secretary receives 4,000 letters annually from foreign countries requesting help with criminal investigations.

The Government now faces a huge legal bill. The solicitors were awarded their costs

The Home Secretary must decide if and how to give foreign authorities assistance with criminal investigations in this country

by the High Court, which are estimated to be £150,000, and the police costs, which are estimated at £70,000.

Last night the Home Office said it was considering appealing against the judgment as officials believed the Home Secretary acted lawfully in asking for the warrants.

The court also ruled that, after Mr Howard acted, the police then mismanaged the case when they secretly and unlawfully obtained a warrant to search the offices of the lawyers, Theodore Goddard, and chartered accountants, Stein Richards, in London.

Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Mr Justice Laws said Judge Goddard QC had also erred when she approved the issuing of the "draconian" search and seizure warrants at a private Old Bailey hearing last October.

She had granted the warrants without giving the two professional firms an opportunity to object.

Mr Justice Laws said the case arose following the start of a criminal investigation in Australia into suspected tax evasion by people connected with the Best and Less department store chain. In September 1993, Mr Howard ordered the Metropolitan Police to apply for a search warrant or take other steps to obtain possession of documents on behalf of the Australian authorities.

He wrote again in October, setting out a list of additional documents to be included in the search and seizure order. These included covering letters, contracts, agreements and the files of clients. The list related to a number of companies and seven people.

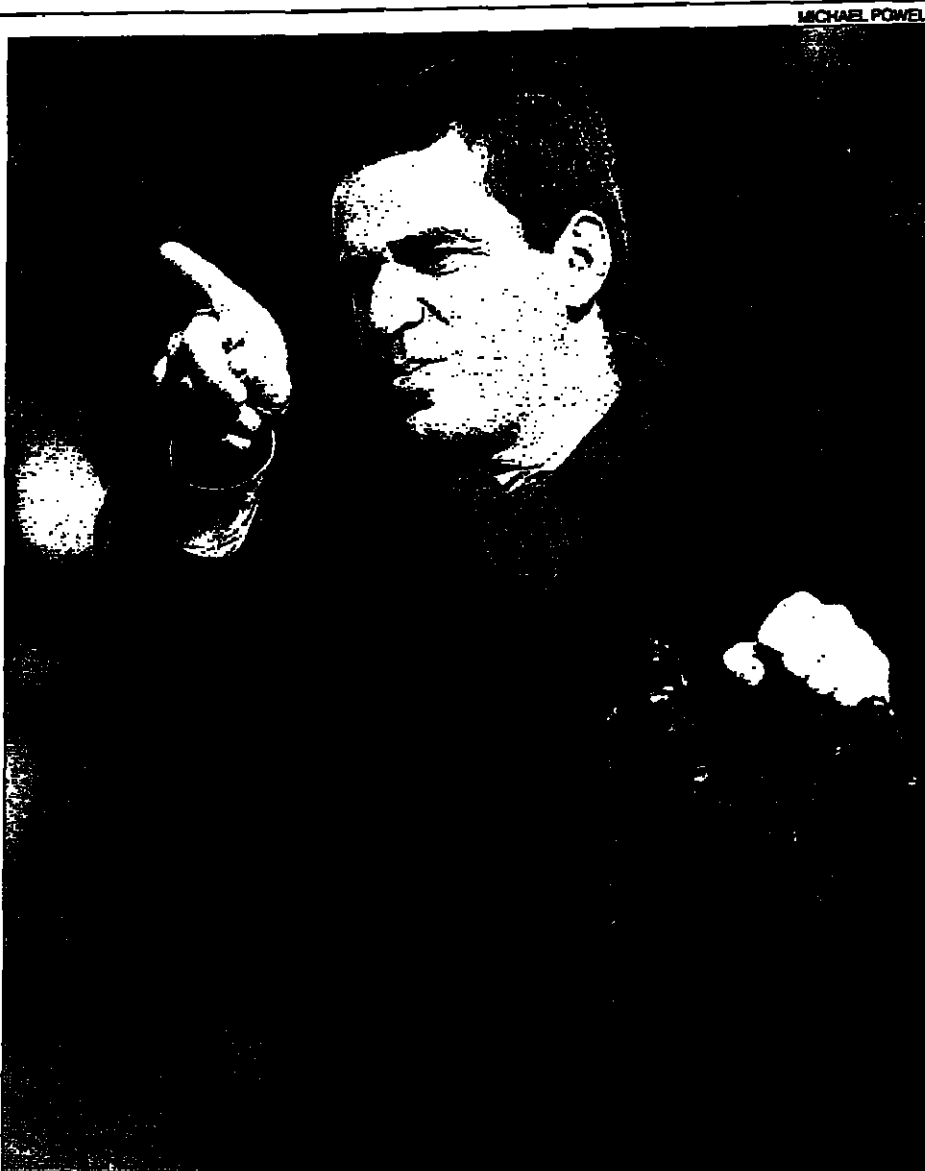
The next day Judge Goddard approved an application for search warrants at a secret Old Bailey hearing. Supt Alan Sing, of the Australian Federal Police, told the hearing that, if put on notice about the application, the firms might remove or destroy evidence. Alternatively, the firms could have refused to hand over the documents.

Mr Justice Laws said Judge Goddard gave no reasons for her decision but should have done so, "not only because generally judges should always give reasons for what they do, but in particular because she was here exercising a draconian jurisdiction".

He said the warrants were unlawful because both firms should have had an opportunity to be represented when the application was made. No evidence had been put before the judge to suggest that either the solicitors or accountants would have "misbehaved" and destroyed the documents.

Theodore Goddard, which acted for Wallis Simpson during the Abdication crisis in 1936, is one of the leading international firms in corporate and commercial law. Philip Barden, an associate, said that the correct procedure would have been to apply to the court for a production order, putting the other side on notice that an application had been made.

Mr Barden said: "Thousands of similar requests are received from foreign governments every year and processed by the Home Office. It seems they have been issuing stock letters to the police asking them to decide how documents are to be seized."



Garry Kasparov, the world chess champion, taking a stroll in London yesterday

Kasparov defends gamely against claim of cheating

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

GARRY Kasparov, the world chess champion, has denied allegations that he cheated on the way to beating the 17-year-old Hungarian chess prodigy Judit Polgar.

The game between Miss Polgar and Kasparov took place last week in the fifth round of the Linares tournament in Spain. After Kasparov had won, she publicly accused him of cheating by making a move with his knight, then taking it back and playing a different one.

At stake is whether Kasparov's hand ever left the touched piece before he made the alternative move. If true, that would have been an important infringement of chess rules.

Kasparov told me yesterday:

"Polgar's behaviour was outrageous. She is just looking for cheap self-promotion." According to Kasparov, Miss Polgar said to him in the hotel lobby: "How could you do it? You knew your hand had lost contact with the piece."

Kasparov said that the tournament organiser, Sr Luis Rentero, believed nothing irregular had occurred. About the incident itself, he said: "I went to play the move knight to c5 and then noticed it might lose, so I put the knight on f8 instead. At that moment Polgar looked up at the arbiter, Sr Carlos Falcon, who did not react." Kasparov conceded that his hand might have left the piece for a fifth of a second.

Speaking from Budapest last night, Miss Polgar insisted on her version of events. "From my experience as a chess player, I was certain at the time that his hand had left the piece. It was a big mistake of mine not to protest at the time but I was worried about getting a time penalty."

Kasparov said: "Sr Falcon has normal eyes and saw nothing. Since the umpire's decision is final, there can have been no breach of the rules... The whole question only came to light because Sr Roman Toran, the president of the chess federation, paid privately to have the videotape played back very slowly to him."

Keene on chess, page 7
Winning move, page 40

Man found dead after CSA trebles child support bill

By EMMA WILKINS

A SOCIAL security clerk found hanging from a beam in his flat last Saturday had recently received a letter from the Child Support Agency demanding his maintenance payments be more than trebled.

Sean Lyford-Smith, 23, from Taunton, Somerset, was asked to increase payments for his four-year-old daughter from £10 a week to £35 and ordered to pay arrears of £500.

Joanne Pacey, 21, whose daughter Maria suffers from cerebral palsy, said yesterday her former boy friend had visited the child regularly and made his weekly payments promptly since the couple split up two years ago.

She said: "I know that the letters for more money and the back payment had been on his mind. There were other worries too. There were family troubles. He felt he had no real friends and was not very good with money."

"I could not believe the CSA would go after Sean. He had been paying his money and was doing what he could. I feel they were trying to take him for every penny he had."

Ms Pacey, from Taunton, said the agency should be chasing the absent fathers who make no maintenance contributions. "Sean went through the proper channels

and paid his dues. How do you tell a four-year-old that her dad is no longer around?"

A CSA spokeswoman said the agency was flexible over payment of arrears. "People are told quite clearly when they receive notification from us that they can phone the agency to discuss paying arrears in instalments."

The family of Derek Atkin, 37, from Grimsby, who was found in his home-filled car on Tuesday with photographs of his two sons after receiving a letter from the CSA, said yesterday that his death was not linked to the agency. Michael Atkin, his brother, said: "He was not hounded by the CSA. They were in touch with him and were going to be in touch again."

Mr Atkin worked as a civilian officer for Humberside police. Chief Insp David Watson, of Grimsby, said: "It was a culmination of his domestic difficulties. The CSA hadn't made a decision about what he should contribute. It was at a very early stage."

Last December, a verdict of suicide was returned on Graham Clay, who hanged himself at Newstead Abbey, Nottinghamshire, ancestral home of Lord Byron, where he worked as assistant custodian. The CSA had trebled his maintenance payments.

BBC pays price of putting Del's motor out to grass

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE trusty transport network that smooths the operations of Trotter's Independent Traders - namely one ancient Robin Reliant - has fallen on hard times.

The BBC has neglected the company car used by "Del Boy" Trotter in the comedy series *Only Fools and Horses* and some important servicing and maintenance work has been needed to get it back on the road. The car was left in a field between filming of episodes, allowing it to gather moss and fall into mechanical ruin.

The Reliant starred in several episodes, once speeding

away from a gang of hooligans and later transporting blow-up dolls. But it always reached its destination - something it might now struggle to manage. Bob Edwards and Derek Lynch, mechanics hired to renovate the car, had to push-start it back into motion and then discovered that its brakes had seized. But the pair, who run Dee Bee Coachworks in Southgate, north London, say the car could pass an MOT test with a little loving care and attention. "It is structurally sound and not really as bad as you see on TV," Mr Edwards said.

Police hunt for mother's murderer

By EMMA WILKINS

A DIVORCED mother who was cautious about strangers was stabbed to death in her bedroom after opening her front door to a man.

Wendy Speake, 51, from Wakefield, West Yorkshire, died from multiple stab wounds. Police said: "She was a cautious person and we believe she may have known her attacker. We cannot rule out a sexual motive."

Mrs Speake, who had two grown-up daughters, was seen on Tuesday evening talking to a man on her doorstep for a few minutes. He left but was later seen walking out of the front door and running towards the town centre.

The body was found on Wednesday after colleagues telephoned police when Mrs Speake failed to arrive at work. The man seen at her home was about 5ft 6in, of medium to slim build, and was wearing a grey ski jacket and blue jeans.

British drug ring pays Dutch £1bn

By STEWART TENDER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A RING of British drug traffickers has paid Dutch distributors £1 billion for tonnes of supplies to meet Britain's growing demand for cannabis and cocaine, chief constables were told yesterday.

The drugs would have sold for at least two or three times the purchase price, a seminar for the Association of Chief Constables at Bramshill, Hampshire, was told. One of the exporters was receiving so much cash from Britain that he employed four cashiers to count the money each day.

The scale of the deals was uncovered by Dutch investigators and tax officials. They suspect the gang of moving cannabis from Pakistan to the West. It is believed to have moved 275 tonnes of cannabis to Canada in five years.

Over a similar period the British traffickers paid £1 billion for supplies. One cannabis supplier earned more than £20 million from British traf-

fickers over three years and a group supplying ecstasy had a turnover of £100 million during a similar period.

Neil Dickens, head of Britain's network of regional crime squads, disclosed details of the £1 billion drug ring in a speech calling for a national squad to tackle major crime at home and abroad.



Dickens called for national strategy

Woodlands plan backed by Prince

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales announced yesterday that timber from his estates near Liskeard in Cornwall is to bear stickers indicating that his woodlands have been harvested in an environmentally sound way.

The move is a response to consumer confusion over the ecological claims of wood suppliers, furniture makers and DIY shops. The Prince, who was speaking at a World Wide Fund for Nature conference in London, hopes the accreditation scheme will set an example to private foresters and help environmentally aware consumers, architects and builders.

But the plan, supported by conservation groups, could increase confusion. The Prince is backing a scheme called Woodmark, launched by the Soil Association, which meets tough international standards on ecologically-sound forestry. Yesterday details emerged of a totally different scheme by the Forestry Industry Committee of Great Britain, which represents private foresters, also called Woodmark.

The Soil Association's initiative requires inspectors to see if timber production is sustainable and sensitive to wildlife. The industry's initiative is more of a "Buy British" project based on the idea that if the wood has come from Britain it must have been managed in an ecologically sound way.

Actor's art up for sale

By JOHN SHAW

THE art collection of the late Vincent Price, the horror film actor, will be sold for about £400,000, the auction house Christie's announced in London yesterday.

The star, who died aged 82 in Los Angeles last year, amassed a collection ranging from British, American and Impressionist pictures to tribal art and modern sculpture. The sales will be held round the world. His British pictures will be auctioned in London on May 25.

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Roderick Newall launched drunken assault after birthday celebration

Son killed parents in rice flail attack

BY LIN JENKINS

THE former army officer Roderick Newall beat his parents to death with a martial arts rice flail in a drunken row about his career and childhood, a Jersey court was told yesterday.

In a statement to police hours after being extradited from Gibraltar, Newall, 28, gave a dramatic account of the killing of his parents in 1987 after the family had celebrated his mother's birthday.

Newall, who has admitted the murders, told police in a statement read to Jersey Police Court yesterday that he wanted to kill himself after murdering Nicholas and Elizabeth Newall.

His younger brother Mark, 27, an international banker, who has pleaded guilty to helping him bury the bodies and to evade justice, claimed that he became involved only to stop his brother committing suicide. David Trott, the magistrate, committed the case to Jersey's Royal Court.

The court was told yesterday that the family had been out for a celebratory dinner and had returned to their home at St Brelade's Bay. Mark left but Roderick, formerly a lieutenant in the Royal Green Jackets, remained drinking with his parents.

In his statement, Newall told of an argument that brought out bitter childhood memories, and of the remorse he suffered before the relief brought by his confession.

His father Nicholas, 56, a Lloyd's underwriter, and mother Elizabeth, 47, died of head injuries, their skulls broken as a result of the blows.

Newall said in his statement: "A heated argument developed in which many old wounds were reopened. They came to a head with my father and I standing face to face and I told him what I thought of him, things I had not said before. He pushed me and I fell, hitting my head on the dining-room table." Newall



Mark Newall helped bury parents' bodies

said he grabbed a pair of rice flails, which he had collected from the attic with other possessions earlier, and clubbed his father. He next remembered sitting on the floor in the hall. "I got up and went into the sitting room and saw my father's body. I could find no pulse. In complete panic I checked the kitchen, and the bedroom, where I found my mother's body. It triggered my memory of also attacking her. I could find no pulse. Then I realised I had killed both my parents."

As his statement was read, Newall, dressed in a dark suit, shirt and tie, sat motionless next to his brother. Sometime after the killings he telephoned Mark and said he was going to kill himself. The statement continued: "When Mark arrived I was sitting holding the shotgun. Mark calmed me down and talked me out of taking my own life."

They buried the bodies in a field in the north of the island before returning to remove all traces of the killings. "My feelings of guilt and remorse have built up ever since that night. I found it increasingly hard to live a lie," Newall said.

He had not contacted police after the killings because he did not want his brother to get into trouble. He was extradited from Gibraltar to stand trial after being arrested on his £350,000 yacht. Newall had no explanation for his

behaviour. "I have still not understood how I was capable of committing these horrific crimes. It was probably caused by bitter childhood memories released by the argument."

In his account to police, Mark Newall said he had been sober but the others had had champagne, wine and whisky at the birthday celebrations. In his statement, read to the court, he said: "I went straight to the house and found both mother and father dead. They had severe head injuries. My brother had blood on him." He had agreed to help to dispose of the bodies because "it was then, and is now, my belief that if I had not done this he would have killed himself. I will always bitterly regret the pain, anguish and trouble which has been caused."

The bodies of Mr and Mrs Newall were exhumed from a 3ft-deep grave in a field last November after Roderick Newall told police where they were buried. Dr Gyan Fernando, a Home Office pathologist, said there were cuts and fractures on both skulls.



Roderick Newall, who admits murder, being escorted from court yesterday

Murder plot wife 'on a high' as men fought before her

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE woman at the centre of the lawnmower murder plot case yesterday described her exhilaration as her husband and lover fought in front of her. "I am ashamed to say I felt — the only way I can describe it — on a high. I felt powerful because two men were fighting over me," Susan Whybrow told an Old Bailey jury.

Mrs Whybrow, 53, and Dennis Saunders, 57, are on trial for plotting to murder Christopher Whybrow, a barrister, by staging a fake accident with his sit-on lawnmower. Both have denied the charge but admit conspiring to cause him actual bodily harm.

They were convicted of conspiracy to murder Mr Whybrow in 1990 but the Court of Appeal ruled that trial had been unfair and ordered a retrial.

Mrs Whybrow told the court she had lured her husband with the promise of sex into a position where her lover could attack him from behind. She left the room to tell Mr Saunders where they were. "When I came back Christopher had taken all his clothes

off. I said, 'Oh dear, I wanted to take your clothes off — slowly.' He put them back on and I helped him. Dennis grabbed him from behind."

Mr Whybrow was bound, blindfolded and gagged with a pair of ties and manhandled into the garden. At that stage Mrs Whybrow said she decided to get the lawnmower from the barn. "It was my idea. I thought it would cover up any noise," Christopher might make.

She said it was never intended to kill her husband. The trial continues.



Whybrow: felt powerful as the two men fought

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Forecast on fumes may halt drivers

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

WEATHER forecasters have worked out how to predict city air pollution up to five days ahead. The breakthrough could lead to cars being banned from the streets when a health risk is expected.

Forecasting traffic and industrial pollution would benefit asthmatics and people with heart conditions. The forecasts, to be tested this year in Bristol, would also enable local authorities to ban cars in advance when a combination of weather and fumes were likely to endanger health.

Several European cities ban vehicles when air quality deteriorates. John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, recently ruled out similar schemes for Britain. Experts believe that pollution forecasts in newspapers and on television might change his mind.

Mary Stevens, of the National Society for Clean Air, said yesterday: "People would know a few days in advance to leave their cars at home and take public transport. This will allow you to manage air quality by making car bans practicable."

The forecast system links air pollution data and computer weather models.

Forecast, page 20

Big bingo win takes the house

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A WOMAN who refused to share her bingo jackpot with a friend will have to sell her home after a court ruled that she must keep their verbal agreement to split the winnings.

Rosalind Morley has been ordered to pay Wendy Bell, her neighbour, half the £42,000 prize money plus more than £6,000 interest on the win. But, after the ruling at Leeds County Court, Mrs Morley, 32, said the cash had all been spent and her family would have to move to pay the debt.

Despite being awarded more than £27,000, Mrs Bell, 33, has also lost out. The pressure of the three-year legal battle has wrecked her marriage.

The two women travelled each week from Whinmoor, Leeds, to the Mayfair bingo hall in the city centre. They agreed to share every win and had already split nine small prizes before Mrs Morley took the national jackpot of £42,862 in January 1991.

The court ruled that, although not formal, their agreement was a valid legal contract. Mrs Morley plans to appeal.

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- Membership of the EEC to be cancelled; principles of free trade between countries to be re-established.
- Bank lending to be regulated to support UK enterprise; limited companies to be permitted to advertise for funds; VAT to be abolished; other taxation methods to be simplified; TV licence fee to be scrapped.
- Profiteering by privatised utilities to be curbed.
- National Lottery to be used to support the NHS and other public services.
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Heseltine vows to 'fight for Britain'

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine resumed his flirtation with the Tory right yesterday by insisting that his support for Europe was based on national self interest and by making it clear that he would not shrink from "rows" with other members of the Government to win the best deal for Britain.

The President of the Board of Trade, who is regarded by a growing number of right-wing Conservatives as a potential successor to John Major if he is forced out by disastrous election results in the summer, again declined to rule himself out of a future leadership contest.

He was also careful to avoid offending the Euro-sceptic wing of the party, which he attacked as recently as last November for its negative rhetoric towards the European Union. Asked if he would prefer to be seen as a Euro-sceptic, Mr Heseltine told a Conservative Central Office press conference: "I don't know what the word means. My interest is in British self interest. I will fight for Britain's self interest as will every

other member of the Government... If there has to be a row about it, so what?"

Mr Heseltine also dismissed the fears of centre-left Conservative MPs, who are worried that the battle over voting rights in the Council of Ministers and harsh words from supposedly pro-European ministers, such as Douglas Hurd and David Hunt, signal a return to the Brussels-bashing of the Thatcher era. "If you ever challenge the orthodoxy of an organisation, you are subject to the criticism that you are rocking the boat," he said.

Asked about his leadership ambitions, Mr Heseltine said: "This is just media hype. The fact is that the Prime Minister will lead the Conservative Party into the (European) elections. He will have the universal support of the Conservative Party and a manifesto we all agree with."

"We will fight these elections as we fight all other elections — to win. I will do all I can to support the Prime Minister in that election campaign and in any other elec-

tion campaign which he invites me to take part in."

Although Mr Heseltine praised Mr Major's negotiating success at Maastricht and maintained that they were as one in defending Britain's interests in Brussels, his remarks will be seen by right-wingers as signalling a shift towards the fiercely nationalistic stance that was Baroness Thatcher's trademark.

Mr Heseltine's remarks came as he and Neil Hamilton, the deregulation minister, made the Government's assault on red tape at home and abroad one of the key themes of the Euro-campaign which will begin formally in mid-May. Mr Heseltine said that the Tories had put deregulation on the European agenda.

"While Conservatives have a vision of a deregulated, outward-looking, free-trading Europe of independent nation states, Labour and the Liberals believe in an ever more regulated Britain swamped in a United States of Europe."

Leading article, page 17



Troops fraternise between trenches in Commons war

It is now three months since Labour suspended co-operation with the Government. Despite predictions that the breach would not last beyond Christmas it is, in theory, still continuing. The practice is, however, very different. Life goes on almost as normal. It is less guerrilla war, more a rear-room tiff — though at much cost to the public standing of Parliament.

The original breach was caused by John Smith's anger at the imposition of guillotine limiting debate on two post-Budget bills, on national insurance contributions and statutory sick pay. Abandoning co-operation has meant the withdrawal of pairing (allowing MPs to be away) and the threat to force votes on non-contentious measures. This was to ensure that Tory MPs had to stay around the Commons in case of an ambush. There has been some inconvenience and frustration. Select committees have cancelled trips overseas, though the defence committee did visit Bosnia, convincing most members of the case for more British troops.

Some ministers have had to stay home, though two have just been to South America. But away from the publicity of formal trips, informal understandings have returned. The word "pairing" is never used, but a senior minister might ring up his Labour pair, often an old friend, and enquire what he is doing this evening. The new code is "I'm going to be out for dinner", so the minister can happily do the same.

The usual channels by which party business managers talk to each other are still operating, quietly. Labour whips have been observed talking to their opposite numbers. There are even meetings. The absence of normal arrangements is to Labour's disadvantage. The Opposition can no longer make formal requests. So sometimes the Government gives Labour what it wants in terms of a debate, and sometimes it does

not. There are murmurs on the Labour side that Mr Smith made a mistake getting into a fight without a way out.

The Government has been getting legislation earlier than otherwise. The two Bills which caused the breach became law several weeks ago. Guillotines have been imposed where there has been any sign of time-wasting, notably on the Finance Bill, to the private relief of some Labour MPs who no longer face sittings beyond midnight. The Government has had to make time for debates on uncontested orders. The overall effect has been small since bringing forward the Budget to November has resulted in lighter than usual business now. In the absence of a spring Budget, speculation about the local and other elections has started earlier than previously.

The dispute has revived debate about Commons reform and the three-year-old report from Michael Jopling's committee calling for more streamlined working hours and timetabling of most Bills. This is supported by MPs of all parties, but not in the present mood by Labour leaders. Labour whips and left-wingers such as Dennis Skinner reject formal arrangements with the Government on the grounds that delay is an Opposition's only weapon — though there is no evidence that such tactics have any impact. Some features of the Jopling report, such as more frequent timetabling of Bills, are in effect being introduced by the back door.

Changes in Commons procedures usually come when the front benches are agreed, but impatient Tory MPs are urging the Government to press ahead now. Tony Newton, the Leader of the Commons, is instinctively cautious, but yesterday hinted at possible action. This is overdue. If Parliament wants to rebuild its reputation, it needs to start updating its procedures.

PETER RIDDELL

Major joins council tax dispute

By ROBERT MORGAN
POLITICAL STAFF

SOME Labour councils owe more than Third World countries. John Major claimed in the Commons yesterday, amid heated clashes over council tax and local authority debts.

Sir Norman Fowler, the Tory chairman, later issued figures showing that 22 of the 25 most indebted councils are Labour controlled. His figures put Manchester and Birmingham at the top of the list with debts of over £1 billion.

However, as the council election campaign moved up a gear, Labour released figures showing that the Government had borrowed more in a single year than Communist China had borrowed in fifty.

Jack Straw, the shadow environment secretary, said Labour councils had borrowed to invest in the future. Mr Major had borrowed to pay for past economic failure.

During question time Mr Major and Margaret Beckett, Labour's deputy Leader, both claimed that councils run by their parties charged lower taxes. Mrs Beckett said that in Tory-run councils "you pay more and get less". Mr Major said she was "being extremely silly and talking rubbish". He said that for every £10 collected by Birmingham, £7 went to service debt.

Mrs Beckett retorted: "Surely the Prime Minister does not need to go further than Westminster, which has a higher debt than Mongolia."

Curb urged on violent videos

By JONATHAN PRYNN
POLITICAL REPORTER

MORE than 160 MPs from all parties have supported a move to ban the sale or hire of "gratuitously violent" videos. David Alton (Liberal Democrat), Liverpool Mossley Hill, yesterday tabled an amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill aimed at preventing children gaining access to films likely to cause them "psychological harm". It would require the British Board of Film Censors to stop films meeting that description being available for sale or hire or viewed in any place to which children under the age of 18 are admitted.

Such films, which would be classified as "not suitable for home entertainment", would be restricted to cinema clubs open only to people over 18.

Supporters of the Bill span the entire political spectrum represented at Westminster. They include Sir Ivan Lawrence, Tory chairman of the home affairs select committee, Geoffrey Dickens, Ken Livingstone, the left-wing MP for Brent East, Sir David Steel, the former Liberal Leader, The Rev Ian Paisley and other MPs from the Ulster Unionist and Nationalist parties. Up to 80 Tory MPs are thought to support the Bill.

The Government has not yet decided its stance on the amendment, which will be debated during the report stage of the Bill, beginning on Monday March 28.

The week in Parliament

The main business in Parliament in the next week:

House of Commons

Today: Debate on private member's motion on Council of Europe and Western European Union.

Monday: All stages of Insolvency (No 2) Bill and Transport Police (Jurisdiction) Bill.

Tuesday and Wednesday: Coal Industry Bill, remaining stages.

Thursday: Debate on European farm prices.

Friday: Debate on inner cities.

House of Lords

Monday: Social Security (Incapacity for Work) Bill, 2nd reading.

Tuesday: Education Bill, committee continued.

Wednesday: Debate on allocating costs of United Nations forces.

Thursday: Transport Police (Jurisdiction) Bill, 2nd reading. Police and Magistrates' Courts Bill, 3rd reading.

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Lyell that M haltin

Paisley offers saint with C

THE Rev Ian Paisley, the Ulster Unionist Party's first vice-president, has offered to support the Government's proposal to create a new saint for Northern Ireland. He said that if the Government accepted his offer, he would be the first to support the proposal.

KEENE

Cash of the masters

THE Rev Ian Paisley, the Ulster Unionist Party's first vice-president, has offered to support the Government's proposal to create a new saint for Northern Ireland. He said that if the Government accepted his offer, he would be the first to support the proposal.

Lyell rejects claim that MI6 advised halting arms trial

By JILL SHERMAN AND MICHAEL DYNES

JOHN Major supported the Attorney-General yesterday after Sir Nicholas Lyell denied allegations that he had been approached by MI6 officers to call off the Matrix Churchill trial. Amid renewed calls for his resignation over his role in the Iraqi arms affair, Sir Nicholas Lyell issued a statement denying newspaper reports that he had been warned by MI6 to call off the prosecution of three Matrix Churchill executives accused of breaching an arms embargo.

Lord Justice Scott also dismissed reports that MI6 officers had told his enquiry in private hearings that they had warned the Attorney-General to halt the trial.

Armed with the Customs lawyer who instructed the prosecution counsel in the

judge refused to accept public interest immunity certificates on documents revealing that ministers knew of the military end use of Matrix Churchill's equipment. Last month, in his evidence to the enquiry, Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, criticised Sir Nicholas's handling of the immunity certificates. Mr Major then declined to give Sir Nicholas his full support.

Yesterday, however, Mr Major declared his "full and complete confidence" in Sir Nicholas, who appears before the Scott enquiry next Thursday. "He has made it perfectly clear today, in the light of the reports in newspapers this morning, that he has no knowledge of any approach by MI6 to him or to his office asking that the Matrix Churchill prosecution should be stopped," Mr Major said at Prime Minister's questions.

The Liberal Democrats suggested that Sir Nicholas was being set up as a sacrificial lamb. Labour called on him to step down, and urged the Prime Minister to answer the allegation that warnings were issued because the people involved were working for intelligence services.

Menzie Campbell, the Liberal Democrat defence spokesman, said: "The steady drip of adverse publicity against the Attorney-General reinforces the impression that he is being set up as a sacrifice to the Scott enquiry."

Derek Fatchett, Labour's industry spokesman, said Sir Nicholas's position was becoming more impossible by the day. "It is time for Sir Nicholas to pull his head out of the sand and tell the whole truth about this sorry affair."

Earlier Sir Nicholas's office said: "The Attorney-General has no knowledge of any approach by MI6 to him or his office asking that the Matrix Churchill prosecution should be stopped. He has received no notification from the Scott enquiry that any such evidence has been given to them."

Lord Justice Scott also dismissed the allegations. "Our recollection is that no evidence has been given by SIS officers at any 'in camera' hearing

that they warned the Attorney-General to call off the prosecution in the Matrix Churchill case," a spokesman for the enquiry said. However, he said that all the evidence from the private hearings would be checked again.

The Scott enquiry heard yesterday how Miss Bolt, the Customs lawyer, did not learn of the existence of the Defence Ministry's secret working group on Iraq, which vetted export licence applications, and which also knew of the military end use of Matrix Churchill's equipment, until just before the Old Bailey trial in 1992.

Customs officials decided to press ahead with the prosecution not because the machine tools exported by Matrix Churchill were capable of being used for military or civilian purposes, but because they had been "specially designed" to manufacture only armaments, she said.

Battle for Wakeham's succession begins in Lords

By JONATHAN PRYNN
POLITICAL REPORTER

LORD Fraser of Carmyllie, the Scottish Office minister and former Tory MP, is fast emerging as the favourite to succeed Lord Wakeham, who is widely expected to step down as Leader of the Lords this summer. Well liked by his ministerial colleagues and opposition front-benchers, Lord Fraser, a 48-year-old Scottish QC, would prove a popular choice in the upper House.

As Peter Fraser he was elected as MP for Angus South in 1979 and served for eight years before losing his seat in 1987. He was Solicitor General for Scotland from 1982 to 1989 when he was made a life peer.

His chief challenger for the job is likely to be Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the overseas development minister, who has had the unenviable task of steering the Education Bill through the Lords. The Bill is unpopular with peers and may have damaged her standing in the



Fraser: favourite to lead House of Lords



Baroness Chalker with Lord Wakeham, Leader of the Lords, who is expected to step down soon. Lady Chalker is likely to be Lord Fraser's chief challenger

style might not be suited to the Lords. If appointed, she would be the second woman Leader after Lady Young, who held the post from 1982 to 1983.

Another female name being mentioned is Baroness Blatch, the education minister, who has had the unenviable task of steering the Education Bill through the Lords. The Bill is unpopular with peers and may have damaged her standing in the

chamber. A former racing driver and RAF air traffic controller who was raised to the peerage in 1987, Emily Blatch also suffers from not having been an MP.

Earl Ferrers, 64, the popular House Office minister, would be the choice of some of the more traditionalist Tories. His old-fashioned charm goes down well with peers but he is approaching the end of his political career and is thought to be suffering

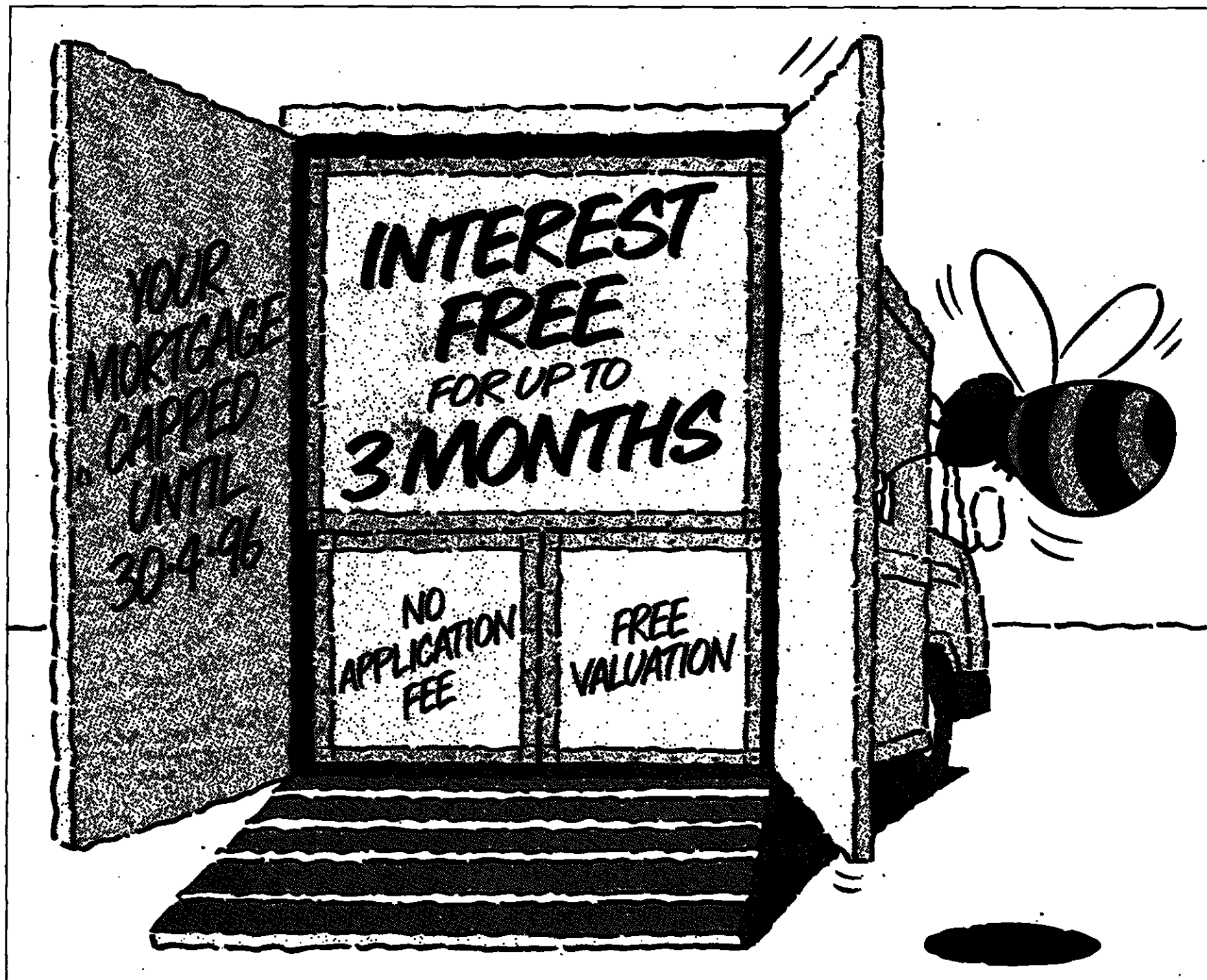
under the pressure of handling two important Bills this parliamentary session. It is also felt no longer appropriate to appoint a hereditary peer to such an important post, which carries a seat in the Cabinet.

Whoever takes the job will face the challenge of restoring the Government's battered authority in the House. Lord Wakeham, appointed Leader in 1992, is not seen by some colleagues as having

his heart fully in the job and sometimes appears bored in the chamber. He is not helped by having an inexperienced new Chief Whip in Viscount Ullswater.

Tory frontbench peers compare Lord Wakeham's performance unfavourably to previous incumbents such as Lord Whitelaw. "He came with this reputation as the great fixer, so why isn't he fixing things," one minister said this week.

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Paisley offers to share saint with Catholics

By ROBERT MORGAN, POLITICAL STAFF

THE Rev Ian Paisley, the Ulster Democratic Unionist Party Leader and a man not often associated with conciliation when it comes to Northern Ireland, yesterday put forward an idea to please both sides of the sectarian divide.

Questioning Sir Patrick Mayhew on St Patrick's Day, he suggested it be made a public holiday. This, he said, would please the Catholics because they thought he was a Roman Catholic, and it would

please the Protestants because they knew he was a Protestant and a Brit.

Dennis Canavan, Labour MP for Falkirk West, said that if Ireland were united, the day could be a holiday in all 32 counties and not just 26.

Sir James Kilfedder, Leader of the Ulster Popular Unionist Party, claimed that St Patrick first went ashore in his constituency of North Down. Others claimed links with the patron saint.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Clash of the masters

Anatoly Karpov, who triumphed the field at Linares, has welcomed suggestions that the former world champion Bobby Fischer might play Judit Polgar, the youngest player to become a grandmaster. Karpov told *The Times*: "Bobby played quite well against Spassky in his 1992 comeback and it was a fighting match. I wanted to play against him myself. We spoke several times after he defaulted the title in 1975 but we could not find a common language. Once, when I spoke with him in 1976, on my return to Moscow, the KGB investigated me. They were of the opinion that I would sell the title of champion to Bobby!"

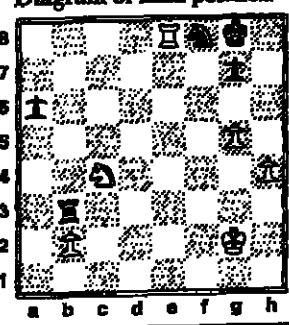
Karpov's manoeuvres
In the following game from Linares, Karpov outmanoeuvres Vladimir Kramnik, the 18-year-old Russian.

White: Anatoly Karpov
Black: Vladimir Kramnik
Linares, March 1994

Semi-Slav Defence

- | | | |
|---|------|------|
| 1 | d4 | c5 |
| 2 | c4 | c6 |
| 3 | Nf3 | Nf6 |
| 4 | Nc3 | g6 |
| 5 | e3 | Nbd7 |
| 6 | Bd3 | dxc4 |
| 7 | Bxc4 | b5 |
| 8 | Bd3 | a5 |

Diagram of final position



Winning Move, page 40

Hospital 'ignored danger warnings over doctor'

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

AN INCOMPETENT anaesthetist who was endangering his patients was allowed to continue working in two NHS hospitals because of staff shortages, a disciplinary hearing was told yesterday.

Consultants at the hospitals on Humberside complained when patients in the care of the anaesthetist, Dr Behrooz Irani, were not properly prepared for surgery and were not waking up quickly afterwards. One said he had to give artificial respiration to a patient after Dr Irani administered "an injudicious dose of drugs".

Alan Wilkinson, a consultant vascular surgeon at the Royal Hospital, Hull, where Dr Irani worked, said: "In Hull we do not have competent anaesthetists growing on trees. I didn't make a formal complaint because it was either use him [Dr Irani] or have nobody. We are constantly having to do that because we are so understaffed."

Dr Irani was later suspended and struck off the medical register in October 1992 after he was involved in a case at

Castle Hill Hospital, Hull, where he also worked, in which a patient was left with irreversible brain damage.

Dr Sean Dunn, 45, chairman of the anaesthetics division for the East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, appeared before the General Medical Council yesterday charged with failing to investigate complaints made against Dr Irani by a number of senior staff at both the Castle

1992. He began juggling his patients so that Dr Irani only have to deal with simple cases, leaving other operations for his regular anaesthetist.

Mr Wilkinson said that, on the fifth occasion he worked with Dr Irani, the anaesthetist brought an elderly diabetic patient into the operating theatre without the necessary drip. Mr Wilkinson vowed that he would not have him on

"I was obviously shielding him quite a lot. I began moving patients around so he had less dangerous patients. The patients were not waking up and I was just a little uneasy."

"I did not think he was up to the job. He was dangerous. I think I made it plain that he was not up to dealing with the sort of patients he should be dealing with."

Dr Barry Hovell, consultant anaesthetist at the Royal, said he voiced concerns to the anaesthetic secretary in June 1992, asking his message to be passed on to Dr Dunn because of his concern over Dr Irani. He said other doctors had complained about him.

The hearing continues. □ Family doctors called to see patients who have suffered a heart attack are failing to give them aspirin despite evidence that it saves lives, according to the *British Medical Journal*.

A study in Oxford found only one in five patients received aspirin before admission to hospital and in Glasgow none of 66 patients was given the treatment.

I did not want this man dealing with my patients... they were not waking up?

Hill and Royal Hospitals, Dr Dunn is also charged with providing information to a surgeon at the Royal Hull Hospital Trust, who was writing a reference for Dr Irani, that was "inappropriate and misleading".

Mr Wilkinson told the hearing that he had immediate doubts about Dr Irani's competence after seeing him working once in the spring of

his team again. He said he told the anaesthetic office but could not be sure he had spoken to Dr Dunn.

"That was the point that I felt he [Dr Irani] was not capable of looking after my patients. I said I did not want this man dealing with my patients. It was his professional competence I was unhappy with. This man was not safe," Mr Wilkinson told the GMC.



Dr Dunn: charged with not checking complaints

Judge jails lover who blackmailed Catholic priest

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE former lover of a Roman Catholic priest who blackmailed him for £65,000 by threatening to expose their 22-year affair was jailed for three years yesterday.

Efforts to recover some of the money from Olwyn Hirst, 66, a former private nurse, had failed. Leeds Crown Court was told. Fraud squad officers spent six weeks investigating her finances but could find no trace of the money. Her only asset was her home, a former council house in Bradford, described by the judge as modest.

Hirst had been found guilty last month on four out of six blackmail charges involving a total of £65,000. The court was told the priest allegedly handed over more than £100,000. Judge Savill, sentencing her yesterday, said: "These four offences were samples of a systematic course of conduct you pursued over a period of approximately ten years. It was both wicked and cruel."

"Your greed, as is so often the case with blackmailers, was your undoing, in that at the end Father X could give you no more and as such was forced to surrender his reputation."

Hirst, the former wife of a police sergeant, maintained the cash was spent on medical treatment for a boy fathered by the priest 17 years ago. She claimed a friend took the child to America.

The priest, identified in

court only as Father X, doubted the existence of the child. He never earned more than £2,000 a year from his stipend but accumulated money from bequests and investments.

Father X, who retired seven years ago from his parish in West Yorkshire, had admitted the affair.

Their relationship began in 1968, when they had sex in his presbytery, and blossomed during a trip with church members to see the passion play at Oberammergau. They took other trips abroad, including a visit to the Vatican to see the Pope.

After the sentence, the priest would say only that he was relieved that it was all over. Earlier he had said: "I am only human and I am not the first or the last to be weak. Let he who has never sinned cast the first stone."



Hirst: investigation failed to find money

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TOGETHER WE'RE RAISING THE STANDARD

Fishy diet cuts risk of stroke

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A FISH supper once a week can halve the chances of suffering a stroke, Dutch researchers have shown. They studied 552 men over 15 years. All were aged between 50 and 69 at the start of the study.

The results, published in the journal *Stroke* by Dr Sirving Kell, Dr Edith Feskens and Dr Daan Kromhout from the Dutch National Institute of Public Health and Environmental Protection, show that men who ate at least an ounce of fish a day were less than half as likely to suffer a fatal stroke as those who ate no fish.

Dr Ray Rice, of The Fish Foundation, based in Tiverton, Devon, said a single portion of fish from the local chip shop once a week would provide this quantity. "We actually recommend two portions a week," Dr Rice said, "but this paper shows that even one is enough to make a significant difference."

The beneficial effects were observed in all those who ate fish, regardless of their age, blood pressure or whether they smoked or drank. The Dutch team said that further work was needed to explain its results fully, although the presence of fish oils in the diet seemed to be an important factor.

Britons die in car crash

Four members of a British family have died in a road crash in Zimbabwe. They were John and Jean Fern, both 46, of Hugglescote, Leicestershire, Mrs Fern's mother Barbara Berry, 71, and her aunt Cynthia Nicholls, 67, whom they were visiting in Harare.

Mrs Fern's father Gerald Berry broke a shoulder and cracked his ribs in the crash. Two men with sawn-off shotguns escaped with jewellery and antiques worth £100,000 after tying up a woman and her son aged 11 in their home at Sulhamstead, Berkshire.

M4 mistake

Wilfred Levens, 74, of Newbury, Berkshire, who drove eight miles on the M4 in the wrong direction, was fined £50 and banned for a year. He must also take a driving test.

Worm appeal

Yeovil Town Football Club has appealed to fans to bring worms from their garden to improve the turf at the new Huish Park stadium.

£250,000 will

The BBC commentator Brian Johnston, who died in January aged 81, left an estate valued at more than £250,000 in his will.

Mersey honour

The Littlewoods director John Moores has been made a freeman of Liverpool.

WEEKEND SHOPPING

Plentiful supply carves a slice off pork prices

By RUTH THOMAS

BRITISH pork is plentiful with a variety of cuts on special offer. Gateway has boneless loin steaks at £1.78 a lb and Asda's rolled shoulder is 99p a lb.

Some seafood prices have risen because of unpredictable weather. Cod and haddock should be available for between £2 and £3 a lb. Fresh octopus is about £2.50 a lb.

A good vegetable buy is Spanish broccoli at 52p-£1.20 a lb. Spring onions are 39p-50p a bunch and English parsnips 30p-45p a lb. Jaffa Shamout oranges are 10p-22p each and Laetitia plums 99p-£1.35 a lb.

Advised best buys: Asda: John West red salmon, 99p for 213g; fresh basted chicken, 79p a lb; black seedless grapes, 69p a lb.

Budget: orange juice, £1.39 for two litres; honeydew melons, 99p each; size three eggs, 99p for 12.

Coopers: Kellogg's bran flakes, £1.15 for 500g; Chivers breakfast marmalade, 69p for 1lb; roast tikka bites, £1.99 for 100g. Gateway/Somerfield: hot cross buns, 59p for four; Sara

Lee meringue pie (440g), 99p; Red Chief apples, 29p a lb. Harrods: Mexican kidney-shaped mangoes, £4.50 a lb; smoked cod roe, £5.90 a lb; saltfish, £3.40 a lb.

Iceland: white chocolate eclairs, £1.79 for eight straight-cut oven chips, 74p for 4lb; peppered mackerel, £1.89 for 15 lb.

Marks & Spencer: luxury mussels, £2.39 for 1kg; New Zealand lamb leg knuckle, £2.79 a lb; medium-cut wholemeal loaf, 49p.

Safeway: shoulder of lamb, £1.34 a lb; Stilton, £1.99 a lb; white finger rolls, 59p for eight.

Sainsbury's: deep-filled steak pie, £1.99 for 550g; French Brie, £1.99 a lb; blackcurrant cheesecake, 99p; red potatoes, 79p for 2.5kg.

Tesco: extra-lean frozen minced beef, £1.89 a lb; smoked haddock fillet, £2.88 a lb; William pears, 39p a lb.

Waitrose: Scotch roasting beef, £2.89 a lb; tiger prawns, £4.95 a lb; pickled onions, 89p for 440g; Australian clear honey, 95p for 1lb.

California braces for killer bees

California is bracing for the arrival of killer bees, which are expected to reach the state from Mexico in the next few months. The bees, which are a hybrid of African and European bees, are known for their aggressive behavior and ability to sting multiple times. The state government is preparing to deal with the potential threat to the state's large beekeeping industry.

Lhasa may see immigrant

Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, may see a significant influx of immigrants from other parts of China and abroad. The Tibetan government-in-exile is reporting that many Tibetans are fleeing the region due to political and economic pressures. The situation is being closely monitored by international organizations.

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Besieged Clintons likely to admit tax underpayment

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Clintons, under growing pressure to revamp the White House presidential team, look increasingly likely to face the added embarrassment of having to admit to the underpayment of taxes during the 1980s.

Lee Hamilton yesterday became the first top Democrat to break ranks and support Republican demands for congressional hearings on Whitewater that would almost certainly become nationally televised "circuses". President Clinton is also said to be under pressure from leading Democrats to shake up his senior White House staff, replacing the "amateurs" who are blamed for mishandling the Whitewater debacle, with seasoned political veterans.

Admitting underpayment of taxes and having to pay penalties would be damaging for a President who has implemented record tax increases and purports to champion the ordinary man who "works hard and plays by the rules". Having in the past claimed a \$6 (£4) deduction for three pairs of underwear donated to charity, Mr Clinton would also find it hard to argue convincingly that the underpayment was an oversight.

David Kendall, the Clinton's lawyer, has reportedly told the First Couple that they made improper deductions on their investment in the

Lee Hamilton yesterday became the first top Democrat to break ranks and support Republican demands for congressional hearings on Whitewater

Whitewater Development Corporation. A *Money Magazine* study of the Clintons' tax returns suggests they could owe the Inland Revenue Service \$45,000 for Whitewater and other deductions over the past 13 years. Hillary Clinton appeared in her *Time* magazine interview last weekend when she remarked that "as we gather more information [on Whitewater's finances] we will act appropriately".

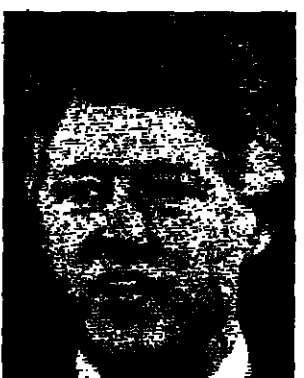
The White House's mishandling of Whitewater has dismayed senior Democrats who

believe Mr Clinton must now replace the politically inexperienced aides surrounding him with seasoned professionals, just as he replaced Bernard Nussbaum, the White House counsel, last week with Lloyd Cutler, a 76-year-old veteran of the Carter era.

Thomas "Mac" McLarty, the Arkansas businessman whom Mr Clinton made his Chief of Staff, seems a prime target. Tony Coelho, a former House whip, and Kirk O'Donnell, a top aide to the late House Speaker Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, are said to have been informally approached. However, officials suggested any changes would be delayed to avoid the appearance of panic.

Mr Nussbaum and at least two other White House and Treasury officials were yesterday appearing before a federal grand jury investigating their improper meetings on a supposedly independent investigation of Madison Guaranty, the failed savings bank at the heart of the Whitewater affair.

Barry Goldwater, the 1964 Republican presidential nominee, lent Mr Clinton some unexpected support by urging his party to "get off his back and let him be President".



Clinton: under pressure to replace his team



Tonya Harding standing beside her lawyer to answer questions after pleading guilty in Portland to hindering the prosecution

Guilty plea buries Harding's amateur career

TONYA Harding, the figure skater, brought to an end both her amateur career and a soap opera that has held America enthralled for ten weeks when on Wednesday night she pleaded guilty to a single count of obstructing justice in connection with the attack in January on Nancy Kerrigan, her rival (Ben Macintyre writes from New York). Harding, 23,

has narrowly avoided going to prison, but she was sentenced to three years' probation, a fine of \$100,000 (£66,000) and 500 hours of community service. She also agreed to contribute \$50,000 to a fund for the Special Olympics, held for the mentally disabled, and undergo psychiatric tests. The skater also agreed to resign from the US Figure Skating Association and withdrew from next week's world championships in Japan. She could be stripped of the national title she won when Miss Kerrigan was forced out by her injury.

Initially, Harding denied any involvement after Miss Kerrigan was struck on the leg with a metal baton, but later admitted she had withheld information. "I'm really sorry that I

interfered," she told the court. When asked if she was suffering from mental problems, she said: "I don't know." The plea bargain enables Harding to dodge the question of whether she played a more central role. Four men, including Jeff Gillooly, her former husband, have pleaded guilty in the conspiracy to attack Miss Kerrigan.

California braces for killer bees

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THEY hunt in swarms, they can become enraged by threats 150 ft away and now they are arriving in southern California — *Apis mellifera scutellatus*, also known as killer bees.

Jonathan Hartzler disturbed a colony of the bees in Tucson, Arizona, earlier this year. "Our sun roof was open and they started diving at us," he said. He and two friends survived. Their dog was not so lucky: more than 2,400 stings were removed from the dead puppy's head.

If a plague of bees descends on Hollywood it will be a man-made disaster. Honey bees are not native to the Western hemisphere but were brought over by early European settlers. The killer variety escaped in 1957 from a laboratory in Brazil. They have migrated northwards ever since at about 300 miles a year. Experts are emphasising that an average healthy human can survive 1,100 bee stings.

"I'm absolutely convinced the biggest problem will be public panic," said Bill Routhier, of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. "The media will be a problem, too. They'll say, 'The killer bees are here' and the public will flood the 911 [999] system to the point of making it unusable."

Bolger drive for republic finds little support

FROM MICHAEL MUNRO IN WELLINGTON

JIM Bolger, the New Zealand Prime Minister, is picking a fight with a largely silent majority of pro-monarchists in urging his countrymen to follow Australia down the republican road.

The latest survey of public opinion on the subject, a Time-Morgan poll last December, disclosed that 60 per cent of New Zealanders support the monarchy and only 24 per cent want a republic with an elected President. David Caygill, the deputy leader of the opposition Labour Party, yesterday warned Mr Bolger not to pre-empt public opinion by promising a referendum on the issue within the next six years.

"When women's magazines sell twice as many copies by featuring a royal personality on their front covers, what indication has to be made from New Zealanders that there is a desire to cut our ties with the monarchy?" Mr Caygill asked. Douglas Graham, the Justice Minister, said he was himself a "bit of a traditionalist" and that the feedback in his Auckland constituency of Remuera remained remarkably patriotic.

The issue arose when Mr Bolger who, like Paul Keating, the Australian Prime Minister, is of Irish Catholic stock, told parliament ten days ago that the new party proportional voting system being implemented next year would result in coalition govern-

ments, meaning a greater role for the head of state as new governments were formed.

He said that would be the catalyst for a break from what he called "the British system of government". He went further and predicted that New Zealand would choose a President as head of state, get rid of the British honours system and end its ties with the Privy Council.

The Prime Minister was also influenced by 2000 being the target settlement date for Maori land claims under the Treaty of Waitangi, New Zealand's founding document, by which Maori chiefs surrendered their sovereignty to the Crown in 1840. The view of opposition MPs and cynical members of the public, however, is that Mr Bolger's sudden outburst of republican sentiment is a ploy to draw attention from the government's domestic problems, among which are a controversial policy to means-test long-stay patients in geriatric hospitals.

David Lange, the former Labour Prime Minister, remarked: "If you had pensioners threatening to shoot you, you would talk about republicanism too."

Graeme Lee, a government MP who supports the monarchy, distanced himself from his Prime Minister by saying that the matter ought to be driven by the people, not politicians.

Lhasa mayor denies Chinese immigrants swamping Tibet

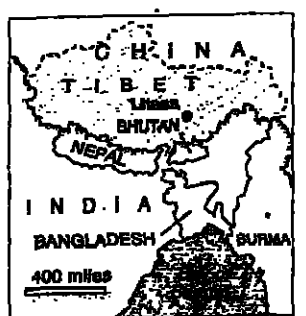
FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

THE Mayor of Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, yesterday denied claims by the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, that Chinese immigrants were swamping Tibetans, and claimed that 87.2 per cent of the capital's population of 400,000 were ethnic Tibetans.

Luosang Dunszu, a delegate of the annual session of China's rubber-stamp parliament, the National People's Congress, said "some people" claimed there were now more people from the Chinese hinterland than local people in Tibet, but this did not square with the facts.

"Tibet is cold and oxygen-deficient and it's hard for Han [ethnic Chinese] people to adapt to local natural conditions, so even cadres sent to work in Tibet go for a fixed period of three to five years on rotation."

Speaking in the Xizang (as Peking calls Tibet) room in the Great Hall of the People here, decorated with painted murals showing a Chinese "politically correct" Tibet of happy,



dancing locals, Mr Luosang, a Tibetan, noted that emigration "is not a bad thing". Using a fairly specious argument, he said: "After Columbus discovered America, it was because a lot of people migrated from Britain that the United States was able to be founded."

The Dalai Lama, who has lived in exile since 1959 after fleeing his Chinese-occupied homeland, said in Britain last year that there were now more than seven million Chinese in Tibet compared with six million Tibetans.

Re Di, chairman of the Tibetan branch of the Chinese Communist Party, headed 20

congress delegates from Tibet in an annual press conference where China presents its viewpoint on Tibet, which few correspondents are permitted to visit following continuing reports of unrest.

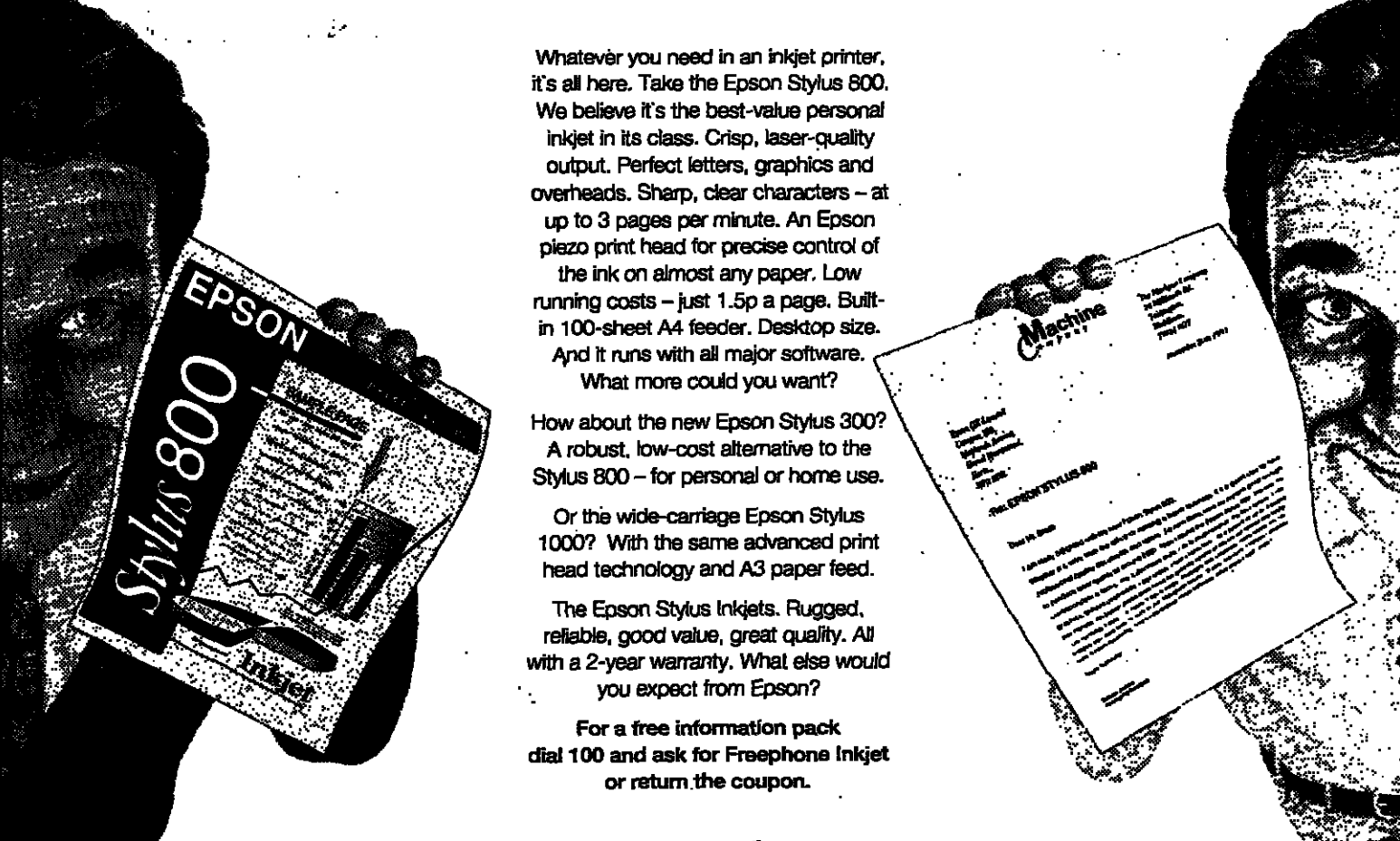
He did not mention the Dalai Lama, who as the 1989 Nobel peace laureate is the best-known Tibetan. Asked about this omission, he said: "Of course, everyone in Tibet knows the Dalai Lama. He fled China after the rebellion of 1959 and since then he has engaged in activities aimed at splitting China and sabotaging national unity."

The policy of the central government to the Dalai Lama is clear cut. As long as he renounces Tibetan independence he is welcome to return to China to jointly develop his homeland with us."

He said Hans and Tibetans were living in amity and "trust and help each other". Tibet was an inalienable part of the sacred territory of China and Tibetans part of the big family of the Chinese nation."

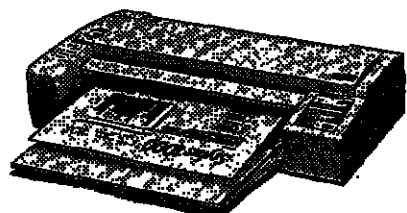
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Negotiator hails peace progress while shadow of siege lifts from Bosnian capital

Owen says Russia nearly quit talks over Nato threat

RUSSIA came within a whisker of walking out on the Bosnian peace process because of the way Nato threatened to use air strikes against Bosnian Serbs after the Sarajevo market massacre, Lord Owen, the European Union peace negotiator, said yesterday.

Moscow felt sidelined and alienated by the alliance plan to launch attacks against the Serbs without referring back to the United Nations Security Council where Russia could have a say, Lord Owen said.

"That was a very hairy moment," he said. "We very nearly lost the Russians and a lot of people certainly have to learn about that in the future." It was not even the Nato threats that persuaded the Serbs to move their heavy weapons back from the Bosnian capital, because they had already agreed to do this in a deal reached with Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose, the UN commander in Bosnia, Lord Owen added. "The fundamental thing is that the Serbs had already agreed."

The negotiator, who "aches to leave" the peace process and return to private life, says that he is pleased America and Russia have taken leading roles in the search for peace. But he suggests that the real groundwork for a lasting settlement has already been well prepared by himself and Thorvald Stoltenberg, his co-negotiator in Geneva.

"I am pleased by their involvement. The problem was that everyone was just leaving it to us. One of our big problems has been getting people to understand the complexities of the region. The thing is not to go too far, to realise the UN still has a role."

One of Geneva's main achievements had been to cajole leaders who hated one another, especially President Izetbegovic, the Bosnian President, and Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, to talk to each other. "We had a situation where Izetbegovic and Karadzic would not sit at

Lord Owen came within an inch of resigning when his partition plan was rejected but stayed on in the interests of peace, he tells Eve-Ann Prentice

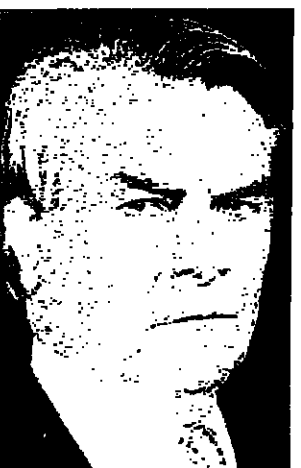
the same table," he said. "It took us four months to get them in the same room together, but we gradually developed a relationship."

"Now we have a situation where we can leave them together for three or four

It took us four months to get Izetbegovic and Karadzic in the same room

hours instead of them wanting to go away and bash one another."

Lord Owen, who was speaking from his home in Limehouse, East London, hours before flying to Washington for today's signing of the American-sponsored deal for a federation between Bosnia's Croats and the Muslim-led government, is pleased that Vitali Churkin, Russia's spe-



Owen: groundwork done in Geneva

cial envoy to the former Yugoslavia, will also be in Washington for the signing of the agreement. "This is a very good sign. The danger was that America could be seen as anti-Serb."

However, he also said that some Western politicians had underestimated "the reluctance of the Serbs to come under the influence of Russia... they are very proud people."

He expressed optimism about peace prospects throughout the region, even in the Serb-held Krajina area of Croatia. Mr Churkin has negotiated a meeting between Croat and Krajina Serb leaders at the Russian Embassy in the Croatian capital, Zagreb, next week.

He would meanwhile like to see a nascent deal between Serbia and Croatia, reached on the fringes of the Geneva talks in January, fleshed out. Although envoys have been exchanged between the republics, there has been no progress on earlier promises to reopen the highway between Belgrade and Zagreb, to establish telephone links or to reopen an oil pipeline.

Lord Owen, who "came within an inch of resigning" when the Vance-Owen plan for ten semi-autonomous regions in Bosnia collapsed last summer, revealed that it was Mr Izetbegovic who persuaded him to stay.

"It is not as if I am a stranger to resigning," he said, "but in the end I thought: 'What good would it achieve? I really do want to see peace.'"

Now, however, he wants to go "when it is convenient to people". Does he think this will be within weeks? He shrugs, says that he does not know, and smiles.



Municipal workers in Sarajevo resetting traffic lights in the Bosnian capital as the road system returns to normal after being plunged into chaos by months of warfare

Appeal launched for £4m aid

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

SIX British aid agencies have joined forces to launch a £4 million public appeal to help the former Yugoslavia. British Red Cross, Cafod, Christian Aid, Help the Aged, Oxfam and Save the Children — under the umbrella of the Disasters Emergency Committee — said that with ceasefires taking hold, there was a good opportunity to "relieve the terrible suffering", but this could be lost without an immediate increase of funds and "many more could die".

An estimated four million people have lost their homes in the conflict, the biggest refugee movement in Europe since the Second World War. Hospitals lack such basics as bandages

and detergent, and families are short of food, and clothing. The agencies are also focusing on the psychological damage that the horror of war has brought to the communities. A programme is under way to trace and reunite families. Money raised in the appeal would also go towards rebuilding the infrastructure. Donations can be made by phoning the credit card line on 0345-222333 or sending cheques or postal orders, payable to Appeal for Former Yugoslavia, to: The Appeal, PO Box 999, London, EC1M 9AA. Donations can be made at any bank or post office until mid-April and in shops backing the appeal.

Sarajevo rises from the ashes to greet Major

By TOM RHODES

On Wednesday night Bosnian Serb forces opened fire on a United Nations ambulance as it passed the now infamous Holiday Inn in Sarajevo. There were no casualties and the incident caused little anxiety in the Bosnian capital, where more than 50,000 people were either killed or injured during a 22-month bantering that all but ended with the brokering of a ceasefire and the threat of allied air strikes last month.

Unless there is a drastic and indeed extraordinary change in events, the Sarajevo that John Major will see today is a city vastly different from that he would have witnessed even two months ago. People are no longer huddled underground to escape the continual shelling or running from street to street to avoid the ubiquitous sight of the sniper. Hospitals are emptying and visits have been organised to the cemeteries that were the killing ground in their own right.

Shops have opened, alongside stalls selling an array of admittedly unaffordable goods, from cosmetics to pipe fittings and clothing to cigarettes. None of this would have been previously imaginable in a city where the black markets became targets for Bosnian Serb bombardment. Even the red trams, dormant for two years, are trundling once more down "Sniper's Alley", an area almost totally devastated by fire and shells.

Neighbourhoods that were previously out of bounds have been opened, albeit cautiously, and few Sarajevans pay much attention any longer to ominous messages, such as "You walk here, you RIP", which are still proclaimed on their streets.

The warring sides yesterday signed a landmark agreement, which will come into effect next week, allowing civilians to move in and out of Sarajevo for the first time in nearly two years of siege. The timing of the deal, so shortly after the announcement of Mr Major's visit, will almost certainly

provide a fillip to the Prime Minister's arrival and give further impetus to the UN peace initiative led by Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, commander of the UN forces.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees yesterday reported that, since the Bosnian Muslims and Croats had come to the table in Washington, access to Sarajevo, and indeed all parts of Bosnia other than Maglaj, had been altered.

The organisation is now averaging 22 airlifts a day in the capital with improved co-operation and weather. Convoys from Belgrade on the Serb side and the Croat town of Metkovic to the south are being granted safe passage.

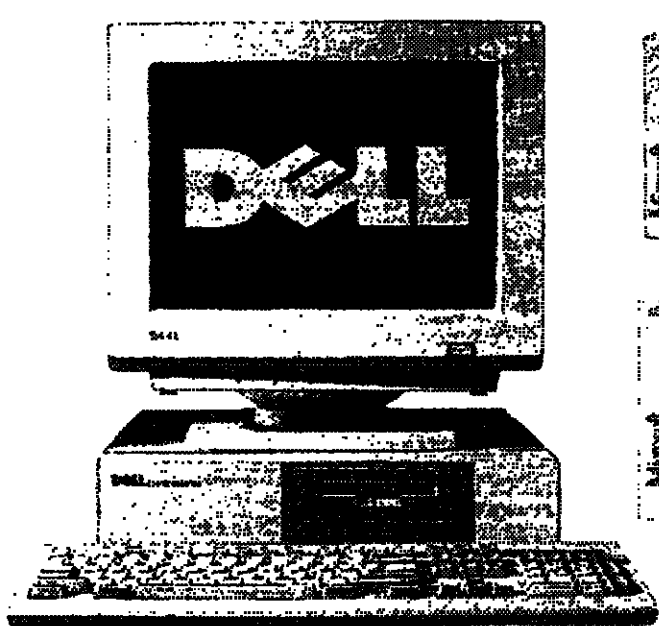
"We have a very high delivery rate now," said Peter Kessler, the agency's spokesman in Zagreb, "and we are essentially meeting our target which has never been the case before the ceasefire." If the Bosnian Muslims and Croats



sign an accord in Washington today and the Sarajevo deal is as serious it appears to be, then peace, of a kind, may finally come to Bosnia. There can be little doubt that the visit by Mr Major to Sarajevo and later to the British troops in central Bosnia is significant. Although various foreign leaders including Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan and Tansu Ciller of Turkey have made flying tours of the capital, this will be the first time that Mr Major has ventured so far into the war zone: a sign of just how safe the region is considered.

Major's visit, page 1

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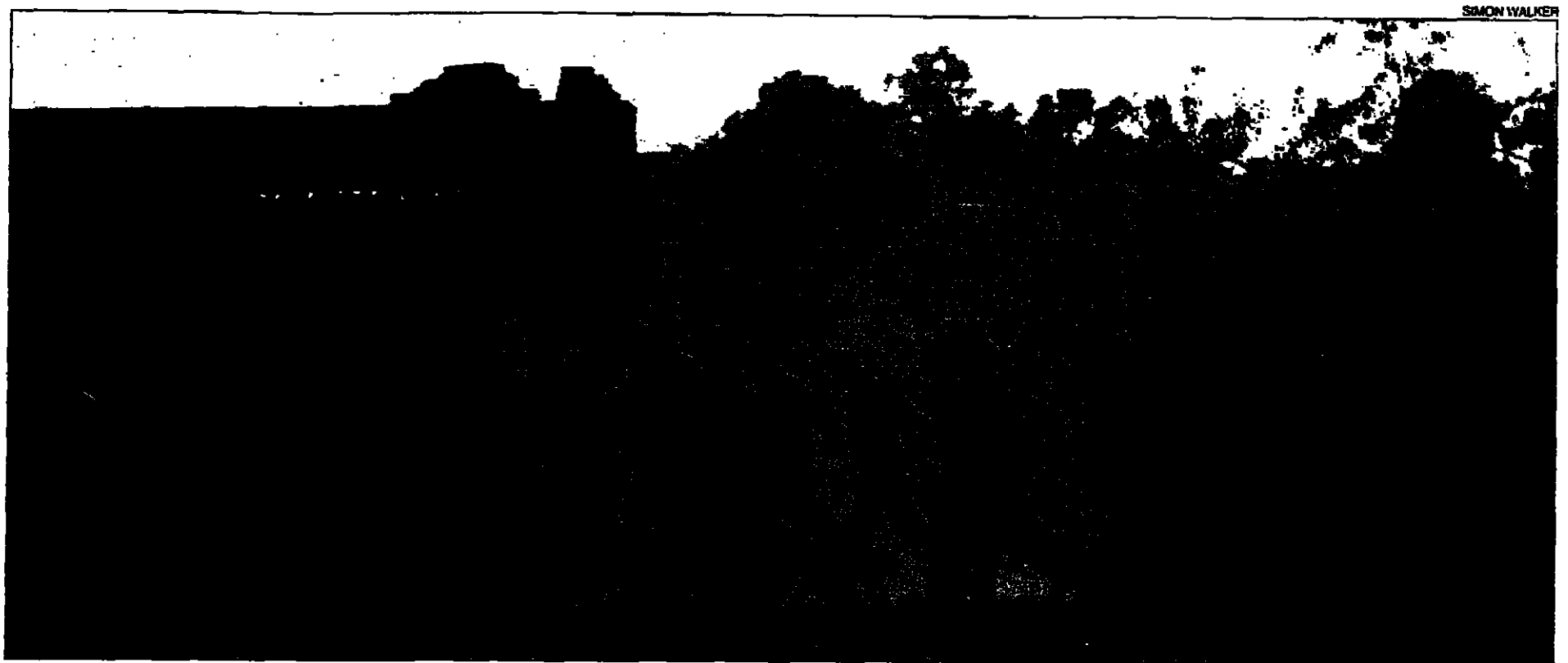
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Tribesmen in rival political camps fear hit squads will provoke an all-out conflict

Zulus train for war on each other

On the third leg of his South African odyssey, Sam Kiley finds that friends are preparing to become foes if that is necessary to gain their political ends

GRUNTING a war chant in unison, the company of 400 Umkhonto we Sizwe Zulu volunteers pounded the dust into a smoke around them until a single pistol shot rang out. At the signal, they fell to the ground and leopards crawled for 100 yards. At another command they did 20 press-ups in a routine repeated for three hours every day by the African National Congress's military wing in Mpumalanga, 20 miles west of Durban. On the other side of the township fellow Zulus, but members of the Inkatha Freedom Party, were doing much the same. Since 1991, Mpumalanga has been held up as an example of peaceful coexistence between the two parties. In the run-up to the first non-racial elections, however, leaders on both sides know they face being swept into war by the paranoia that has engulfed their neighbours. Hit squads, allegedly from Inkatha or the ANC, account for a daily death toll of about



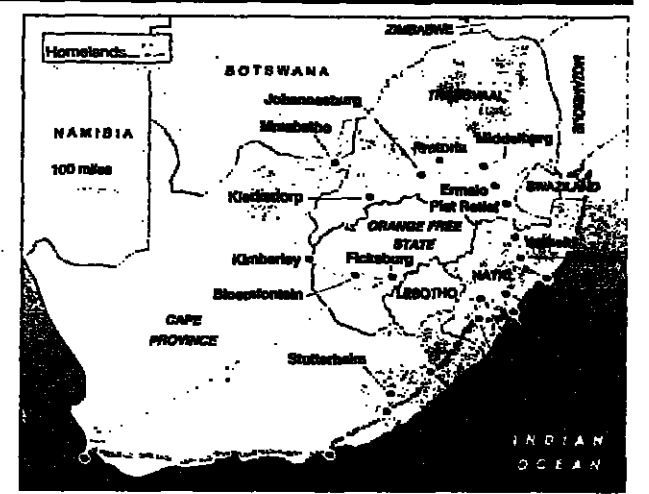
New Zulu recruits to Umkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the African National Congress, taking part in a gruelling training run at Mpumalanga in the Valley of a Thousand Hills in Natal

nationalism to combat the ANC. Chief Buthelesi has unwrapped a powerful totem. "I will die for the kingdom," said Sipho Malaba, who runs several supermarkets in the area. He joined Inkatha after one of his shops was put to the torch by ANC supporters in 1989. He admits that he had been a member for several months before he found out what the party's policies were. "If they (the ANC) do not respect the king, there will be war; we will die, we will die, we will die," Mr Malaba who, as it happens, is a friend of Dr

Radebe, added. "The ANC are training. You don't train for nothing." As the sun began to set through the dust thrown up by the ANC "comrades", Sergeant Bongane Khoza, their commander, explained that the training was mainly to keep radical youths off the street and teach them discipline. A graduate of military academies in Tanzania, he looks every inch the martinet, despite his torn T-shirt and shiny tracksuit trousers. Although, like all of his men, he is a Zulu, his ap-

proach is simple. The ANC expects to win the election. Any attempt to secede, by right-wing members of the Afrikaner Volksfront, the Zulu king, or anyone else will, he says, be "crushed". Ufundi, Natal: Chief Buthelesi gave a warning here yesterday that South Africa faces widespread conflict in a "Bophuthatswana-style explosion" if the National Party and the African National Congress meddle in the affairs of the KwaZulu government and the constitutional demands of the Zulu people are not met (Inigo

Gilmore writes). He was addressing an audience of businessmen, police generals, diplomats and Inkatha politicians at what is likely to be the last annual opening ceremony of the KwaZulu assembly before its reincorporation of the homeland into South Africa after the elections at the end of next month. Mr Mandela yesterday called off today's proposed meeting with Chief Dr Buthelesi because his aides claim that they have received a direct threat on his life if he visits Uthandi.



Iraq braced for Saddam fury after UN rejects oil plea

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

RUMOURS swept Baghdad yesterday that President Saddam Hussein would embark on a military adventure against the Kurds or Kuwait to vent his fury at the latest United Nations decision not to ease the crippling four-year-old sanctions against Iraq. Iraqis immediately began hoarding supplies as the regime escalated its rhetoric against the United States after Saddam's top envoy, Tariq Aziz, failed to persuade the UN Security Council in New York on Wednesday that Baghdad had met conditions to allow it to sell oil. Saddam had given a warning on Sunday that, if Mr Aziz's crucial mission failed, "the Iraqi people and its leadership will be left with no choice but to take whatever action they deem fit in response". He added: "To all evil-minded people we repeat that they should not decide themselves yet again. The fate

of a criminal is an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." The grim speech to his Cabinet, in which he also railed against allied aircraft patrolling the skies over northern and southern Iraq, was his third sabre-rattling address this year. Iraqi opposition



Saddam may lash out at Kurds or Kuwait

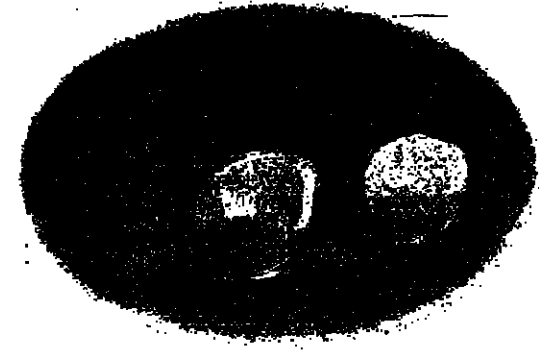
leaders claimed that Saddam has 180,000 troops stationed near the border with Kuwait, fuelling fears of a limited incursion to embarrass America and President Clinton. In the past week, attacks on the hapless Shia population of southern Iraq have escalated and several villages in the Nasiriyah area have been "wiped out" by long-range artillery, the opposition Iraqi National Congress said. A military adventure, according to analysts, could also help Saddam to deflect attention at home from the dire economic state that has seen the dinar plunge in value this year from 30 to the dollar to 280. "Saddam could be bluffing, but it is certainly intimidating," said Dr Salah el-Shakhly of the opposition congress. "His grip on power is being weakened by sanctions. He is nervous, he is losing his bearings. We hope he will miscalculate again."

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THINGS TO COME

D-Day controversy and UK stance on Brussels legislation undermine European unity

Rift between Bonn and Paris widens

By ROGER BOYES IN BONN AND CHARLES BREMNER

GERMANY and France yesterday tried their best to paper over the cracks in their relationship that were exposed by an unusually outspoken ambassador.

Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, telephoned Alain Juppé, his French counterpart, to reaffirm the "unbreakable" nature of the link between Bonn and Paris. According to a German statement, the two ministers also referred to their "close personal relationship".

Few diplomatic observers were convinced. Just before the phone conversation, Germany had called in François Schœrer, the French Ambassador to Bonn, to complain about the envoy's off-the-record briefing to the German press. Among other things the ambassador is quoted as saying: "A more fundamental dialogue is needed to create greater clarity between Bonn and Paris over the definition of

foreign policy in a united Germany — but it is not taking place."

In Paris, the French government said last night that its ambassador's visit to the German Foreign Ministry was not because of a summons but had been "scheduled for a long time". M. Schœrer "did not give an interview to German newspapers," the French ministry said. "It was a question of informal remarks to the press."

The ministry played down reports of strains between M. Juppé and Herr Kinkel. The pair "know each other well, telephone each other often and have a relationship of trust and frankness," a spokesman for the ministry said.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, was said to have been angered by the first report of the briefing, published as the main front-page story in the country's leading

serious newspaper, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. The ambassador said there was too much uncertainty about German ambitions within the enlarged European Union, and he regretted the lack of co-ordination with Paris. The immediate trigger for the French outburst seems to have been Herr Kohl's decision to call off a military farewell parade in Berlin this summer.

The move was intended to soothe the Russians, who had wanted to march together with the British, French and the American troops, but succeeded merely in annoying the French. Herr Kohl, meanwhile, was upset that President Mitterrand had not done more to prompt an invitation to the D-Day 50th anniversary celebration in June.

Herr Kinkel will meet M. Juppé in Brussels on Tuesday to smooth over the cracks, and then on Thursday he is due to meet President Mitterrand.



Colonel Doctor Verena von Weymar of the German air force. She will become the first female general in the history of the German military when her appointment is confirmed

by Volker Rühe, the Defence Minister, on April 1. The army was described as "demoralised and underfunded" by the official ombudsman of the Bundeswehr.

Britain fears socialism by EU back door

Despite Britain's opt-out, EU social legislation impacts greatly on British employment and its effect looks certain to strengthen. Philip Bassett writes

Britain's insistence on maintaining its voting strength in the European Union is based on concern that Brussels would bring in legislation disliked by the Government: that concern particularly encompasses social or employment laws.

Padraig Flynn, the Social Commissioner in Brussels, maintains that, in comparison with some other legislative areas, such as the environment, the number of changes in employment law that the European Union wants to bring forward is very small. Britain, however, regards social legislation as among the most damaging, with Brussels rolling back key changes made by the Conservatives since 1979 and reintroducing socialism by the backdoor.

David Hunt, the Employment Secretary, made the point yesterday in a speech in London to the Industrial Society. Referring to the European Commission, he said: "These European bodies have become the darlings of British unions, where once they were the villains." The most recent example of what the Government sees as European villainy came last week, when Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary and a leading Eurosceptic, had to announce a £65 million increase in maternity payments solely as a result of a European directive. Despite Britain's opt-out from the so-called "social protocol" of the Maastricht Treaty, EU social legislation already impacts greatly on British employment law and practice and its effect looks certain to strengthen.

Britain thinks changing the voting rules when the EU is enlarged by up to four new members next year would leave it more open to social legislation it dislikes. On the question of enlargement, Theodore Pangalos, the Greek European Affairs Minister who presided over the enlargement talks, yesterday astonished Brussels by admitting he thought the whole exercise of bringing in new members before a review of the Union's structures was wrong.

Among the main strands of European social policy currently facing Britain even under the current EU voting rules are:

- Competitiveness White Paper. EU member governments are now meant to be

enacting the wide range of social and economic proposals which all have the aim of cutting the European Union's current level of 18 million unemployed by half by 2000.

- Employment Green Paper. Mr Flynn is just completing shuttling round the European capitals on his Green Paper, with the intention of bringing forward in the summer a social action programme — a raft of new employment laws, which the UK government is likely to find unpalatable.

- Working time. Most of the 47 proposals in Jacques Delors' last social programme in 1988 have now been introduced, and the majority adopted — like the maternity provision — and put into member states' laws. Some of the most controversial, however, have not been. Last week the Government formally announced Britain's European Court challenge to the EU working-time directive.

- Works Councils. Under the Maastricht Treaty provisions setting up the EU, European-wide employers and unions are now examining revised



Pangalos: believes the whole exercise is wrong

proposals, strongly opposed in Britain by business leaders such as Howard Davies, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, to require large cross-European companies to set up works councils with their employees.

- Young workers. Though Britain has negotiated opt-outs on proposals limiting the employment of young workers, UK employers expect the European Parliament shortly to try to throw out Britain's opposition.

Leading Article, page 17

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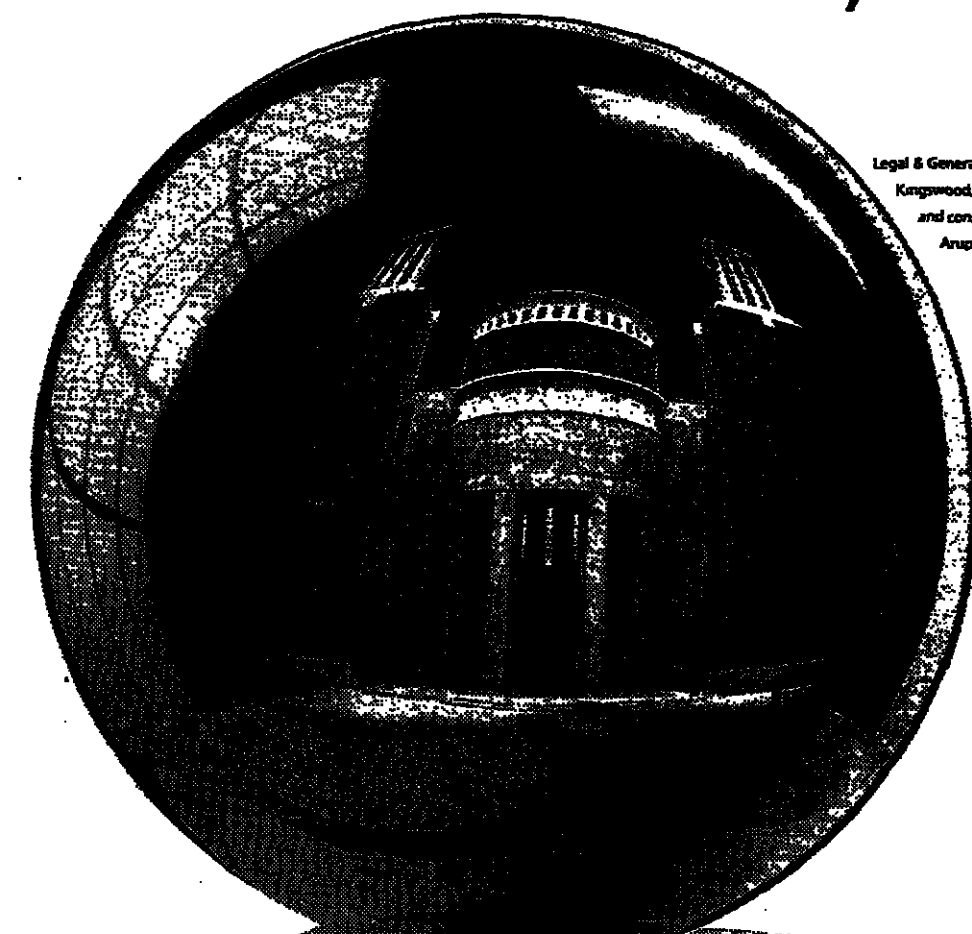
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This year's Oscars are obsessed with male anxiety. Is this a new maturity or simply a band-wagon to jump on, asks Ben Macintyre

Every year Uncle Oscar, that bell-wether of America's current hang-ups and obsessions, has a distinct and recognisable personality.

Last year he was a leathery old-time tough-guy (Al Pacino, Clint Eastwood); the year before she — Oscar, like God, is omniscient — was an alluring but hard-nosed feminist (*Thelma and Louise*, Jodie Foster in *Silence of the Lambs*).

Regardless of who carries away the figurines at the Academy Awards ceremony next Monday, the mould for Oscar's personality this year has already been set in stone: he is a tortured, dysfunctional male trying to come to terms with his inner-self and establish caring, human relationships.

Consider the sorts of films on the nominee roster: *Schindler's List* portrays a man who finds heroism despite his debauched and feckless personality. In *The Name of the Father* shows Gerry Conlon discovering respect and love for his father through a personal odyssey from Belfast hoodlum to convict to political activist and symbol of injustice.

The Remains of the Day, *The Age of Innocence* and *Shadowlands* are all

Is Hollywood finally growing up?

stories about men who cannot express themselves but who, with varying degrees of success, find spiritual liberation through love. These men live cocooned emotional lives, their feelings suppressed to the point of near-extinction, and they could hardly be further removed from the raunchy, self-sufficient gunslingsers of yore.

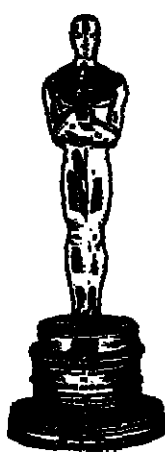
The same sort of male emotional blossoming happens in *The Piano* and even *Mrs Doubtfire*: in the first Harvey Keitel goes from tattooed jungle-boss to hero via music (and sex); in the second Robin Williams becomes a better father by dressing up in drag and putting on a Scottish accent, but the idea is the same. In *Waiting for Bobby Fischer* another father sees the light of good parenthood, this time via his son's chess talents. Even *Germino* has become downright cuddly and psychologically fragile.

The themes of these films have one thing in common: the loneliness of the

male animal, a subject also explored, if superficially, in *The Fugitive*. Schindler, Conlon, C.S. Lewis, Newland Archer and the others — each is spiritually and emotionally alone, at least when the film begins.

Male angst and the quest for The New Man — tender, caring, responsive but bunch — was an early Nineties phenomenon, as men took to the woods in droves to wrestle, sing bonding songs and find their rich inner-children. The Iron John movement came and went, but the notion of the emotionally cauterised but redeemable male has embedded itself in American culture.

Nothing becomes quite true, of course, until Hollywood immortalises it and the Oscars are simply the final, indelible



record of society's temporary cultural preoccupations.

The generous way to interpret the recent rash of male-angst films is to conclude that the film industry, after years of either shooting or sleeping with everything in sight, is maturing. Certainly the portrayal of complex characters like Schindler and Conlon is a vast improvement on the superficialities of a Rambo or a Terminator.

More likely, however, the slew of male regeneration movies reflects the pack mentality of Hollywood and the irritating virus of psychobabble that is slowly infecting every corner of popular culture.

With the exception of *The Piano*, the films described above are all made by men; men who, presumably, want to

show that they too know a bit about male emotional development, but men who also know a trendy theme when they see it. Once this blip is over they can, with a clear conscience, go back to being just as brutal, ambitious and uncaring as they ever were.

The idea that all men are emotionally wooden but capable of feelings if correctly nurtured is now accepted dogma among America's chattering classes. There was a time when people who could not communicate had the good grace to keep quiet about it but increasingly, under the encouraging tuition of Hollywood, men feel they have a duty to discuss their innermost feelings and problems and, if they don't have such things, to invent them.

It is considered highly insulting in some male company not to have at least one repressed emotion you are prepared to share with the group. I have developed

a chronic fear of psychiatrists as my chosen infirmity for such occasions.

Film fades pass, eventually, but today's psycho-trend will most assuredly be tomorrow's film. This suggests that next year's crop of movies will be about victims, which are all the rage here at the moment: rich, abused children who shoot their parents, skaters who attack one another because they lived in trailer homes, women who cut off their husbands' extremities when the marriage goes wrong, that sort of thing.

Therefore my nominee for the personality of next year's Oscar is a one-legged, unmarried, figure-skating mother from a broken home with an incurable disease, who makes good in the end.



TOMORROW IN THE TIMES
The *Monroe* legacy: how Norma Jean still has America twisted around her little finger

The cat gets back on its mat

There was a time, not so long ago, when Jennifer Yellow-Hat was part of our family. So were Roger Red-Hat and Percy Green who fell in the pond. The lives of these people rolled before us for several years — very, very slowly — before being replaced by multicoloured pirates. We missed them. But only a bit.

If you happen to have a child now approaching school, there is a spiritual descendant of Roger Red-Hat rolling towards you. As a caring parent, who reads each night with the lisping infant and faithfully ticks off the reading-diary no matter what sort of a bum day you have had at the office, you are going to meet some new friends whether you like it or not.

The odds are against it being Roger Red-Hat, who is a bit *vieux jeu* by now, not to mention dog-eared; and it certainly won't be anything from your own childhood like politically incorrect Janet and John. For, spurred on by the national education fever, in the next 18 months no fewer

Early reading schemes are a huge and lucrative market. Libby Purves samples the latest offerings

than seven publishers will launch or remodel their early reading schemes.

This is a market worth £20 million a year, and the hype is considerable. C is for the carrots being brandished at schools: discount samples, wallcharts, training days, newsletters, pens, stickers.

The first face-to-face rivalry is apparent this week, in the humming, gossiping, peering, comparing crowds at the Education Show in the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre. I spent the opening day yesterday in the heart of the "Publishing Village", listening to the sales pitches.

You never saw so many dart badges pinned to business-suits in your life. On the Nelson stand, with a large flying boot pinned to him, eager Alan introduced me to one of the most innovative schemes. Professor Ted Wragg's Flying Boot.

This is less violent than it sounds: "Max is an extra-terrestrial with an amazing boot, and he has this word-making machine" — a Heath Robinson contraption is shown, with Max chucking in S-U-N-B and trying to make Sun, but making Bun instead. Old hands will know straight away what this means: after the hysterical campaign against the "look-and-say" theory (see a word, know it next time, never mind the letters for the moment), phonic teaching is back. Look-and-say purists would never associate a bun with a sun, but punism is out of date now. That cat is reliably expected to get itself sat back on that mat. I gaze admiringly on the Flying Boot and its cohorts of grunge monsters.

"Oh, great," said a disaffected voice behind me. "A whole



Spoilt for choice: young visitors to Birmingham's Education Fair try out some of the books publishers are counting on to become firm favourites

generation of kids getting nightmares about the same boot." Not a teacher: an Oxford University Press rep, barracking gently. OUP are at the top of the heap right now: their Reading Tree is used in 10,000 primary schools, and

they look with Olympian hauteur upon the publishers parking their tanks on the lawn. "You'll find we hold the middle ground," said the chap on the stand. "Varied stories to please the Real Books people, a good phonics content, strong characters, and of course our CD-Rom software out by September."

(This is an epidemic. Think how many quiz nights and bazzars will need to be held now to add a CD-Rom to the school computer.) Oxford also have characters: Kipper, Biff and Chip. "A nuclear family, yes, but we have a series called Sparrows with a lot of single parent characters."

You have to think of everything in this trade. "See Anne run" will not get you far. The diagram of the vast Reading Tree sprawls over the stand,

but they know really, as everyone here does, that real schools are brand-disloyal. They mix and match schemes cavalierly, doing their own thing.

Another huge and varied scheme is Longman. Jenny the rep introduces me to a stout elderly man in a blue shirt and regimental tie, who runs a toyshop in beginner book 5A.

"Mr Mancini, I think..." We search for his name, but he isn't really out until March.

Never mind. Purple dinosaurs, stories by Michael Rosen and Anne Fine, ducks, dragons blur before me in the vast opus as Jenny speaks of target vocabularies and D-I-Y modules. I come round to find myself staring at a book called *Toilets*. "One of our best-sellers. Toilets of long ago, how plumbing works — notice

the two-tier text. It teaches the concept of read-and-reject."

Before you reject, I shall pass on to Ginn publishing, familiar to thousands through the dull, structured, safe, effective adventures of *Digger the dog*, formerly *Lad*. He lives on; but Ginn are off on a new wave with *All Aboard*, out next month for the more adventurous teacher.

It makes, as most of the new schemes do, a determined move towards the new psychological research (also known as ancient nursery-rhyme common sense) that shows children can learn from rhyme and alliteration. Gazing at Ginn's page saying "I put on my mittens and saw three kittens," I blurted: "Good God! It's back to the old days."

The rep bridled. "No, no, look at this!" She whips out Computer Kate. "Zapping is bad," said Mum — it isn't, Computer Kate said. She went on zapping all day long. Zap, Zap, she said, you're dead." Oh, all right. Very contemporary.

Cambridge University Press and Heinemann are still only at the school trial stage, and cagey Collins, at the end of the year, launch their *Pathways* series, heirs of the Red-Hat dynasty. But they now reject the concept of a group of familiar characters as "limiting in the stories you can tell."

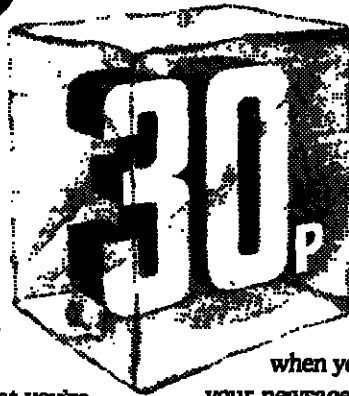
So the rep and I read cosily together: "One puzzled parrot, hanging upside down, two cool comorants driving into town..." Before he got to six perky pelicans, I made my excuses and left.

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THE TIMES

Dishing the family dirt

Recipe for a bestseller — dishonour thy famous father or mother



Daphne du Maurier and respectful daughter Flavia

Since the publication of Edmund Gosse's *Father and Son* nearly 90 years ago, the public appetite for biographical investigations of famous people by their children has ensured the growth of this literary genre. The latest entrant is Daphne du Maurier's daughter, Lady Flavia Leng, eager to balance Margaret Forster's revealing biography with her own memoir.

Gosse's father was one of the fanatical Plymouth Brethren, and his religious zeal was one of many factors contributing to an unhappy childhood. Gosse described his book as "the record of a struggle between two temperaments, two consciences and almost two epochs."

Lady Leng has chosen not to dwell on the negative aspects of her home life, nor her mother's preference for homosexual love, believing that respect for one's parents should guide anything written by their children. But such tact has not always been employed, and Gosse's emphasis on the problems in family relationships has proved a near-irresistible recipe.

Recognising the excitement generated when the children of celebrities indulge in defaming their parents, John Arlott's son, Tim, published a biography of his father last month, which backfired disastrously. The media were horrified at the defamation of one of their own patron saints, and Arlott's widow was inconsolable. "He did everything for his children, would have moved heaven and earth for them," she says. "I am so angry that Tim has written such terrible things... Why on earth, I wonder, did he do it?"

That is a question she might put to the most notorious liter-

ary parricide, Christina Crawford Koonz, whose 1978 biography of her mother, Joan Crawford, destroyed her reputation and created a harsher precedent than Gosse's. The answer, in this case, appears simple: Christina was adopted, presented as a symbol of familial harmony and then left out of Crawford's £1 million will.

Mommie Dearest described a woman whose "eyes were the eyes of a killer animal". The hyperbole was shameless in the quest for sales. Revelations of alcoholism, child-beating, harnesses that locked the children to their beds, and a succession of "uncles", guaranteed the daughter \$800,000 from the book and a further £250,000 from the film rights.

Although Tim Arlott's revelations are by no means comparable, the fact that it is the final chapter that contains the negative images suggests a

reason for their inclusion. Arlott's widow recalled that Tim had difficulty finding a publisher. The last, banded chapter must have eased that difficulty greatly.

Tim never forgave his father for leaving his mother, and Crawford was adopted. Further enquiry establishes a pattern of unconventionality in the sorts of family that generate these parentographies. Jamie Lee Curtis' *When I Was Little: A Four Year-Old's Memoir of Youth* covers a period when her father, Tony Curtis, was divorcing Janet Leigh. The actress insists that the torrid home life she experienced is something from which she wants to save her own, adopted, daughter.

Enid Blyton's daughter, Imogen Smallwood, shattered the childhood illusions of a nation in 1989 with her mean-

oir, *A Childhood at Green Hedges*. Again, the central element is Blyton's divorce from the father of her children. Unable to show the same affection for her natural daughter as she did for the local children who called for autographs, she becomes "emotionally crippled" in her daughter's public memory.

Blyton was not the only mother to suffer the *Mommie Dearest* going-over. Nancy Reagan, for example, provided her daughter with the material for an entire literary career. Patti is rumoured to have been left out of the Reagan will.

Lady Flavia Leng insists her mother was a wonderful person and says of the parent-slayers: "I think if you only want to be beastly about your parents, then you shouldn't write about them. I believe that the commandment to honour your father and mother is an important one."

Nonetheless, the book offers a picture of a mother not single-mindedly devoted to her daughters, who, in one episode, have only each other to hug.

In fairness to the hatchet-wielders, unequivocally positive biographies by the children of famous parents seldom enthrall critics. Sheridan Morley's recent *Robert, My Father* was scorned as hagiographic; the public cried out for war. Gary Morecambe's play about Morecambe and Wise sank without trace.

Whether the motive for publication be a desire for revenge, money, or fame, in writing the biography of a parent a pious upholding of the fifth commandment can guarantee nothing more than peace of mind.

GILES COREN

Fleur Fisher on the ethics of the designer baby — and the awesome power of being an elder daughter

'We all like to think of a moment the earth moved'

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

THE pre-selection of the sex of children is an old wives' tale. An old wife — it was Elizabeth Longford — once gave me the secret. In the 1930s, after she had her "pigeon pair" (Antonia and Thomas), her gynaecologist Dr Helena Wright advised her to have an alkaline douche half an hour before intercourse, whenever a boy is hoped for. Lady Longford's total of eight babies, in neatly sexed pairs, proved that this worked.

I never tried it — I prefer surprises. And anyway, I was already unwittingly pregnant with a son already after three daughters, like Countess Spencer. (And, as Lady Longford says, what makes children interesting is not their gender but their very different personalities.)

But now it seems that two boys followed by a little girl named Sophie is the shape of Britain's first (official) designer family, created by separating male from female sperm. By a fascinating coincidence, all the key players in this week's drama have this formula family. The Clarks, of Harlow, got theirs by design at the London Gender Clinic. Dr Alan Rose, who enabled them to pre-select a Sophie rather than a Brent, himself had two boys followed by a girl. And Dr Fleur Fisher, the BMA's head of ethics, who has spent this week explaining the BMA's objections to pre-selection, is the mother of two sons followed by a daughter.

Dr Fisher, a strong personality in a cranberry suit, knows exactly why the lay public is uneasy. In the era of chance, we liked to believe in the mystic, random inevitability of it all. It added to the colourfulness of life. Look at the Dewe, Matthews family: the painter John Dewe Mat-



thews's mother was one of five daughters. She had seven sons. The seven sons produced 25 daughters until one boy was born.

People like David Amess MP leap up to proclaim that "nature's got it right". Right it may be in the world at large, but in individual families there is no such balance. Dr Rose himself was one of three boys, who feels he would have benefited from having a sister. My mother-in-law, who slept with pink booties under her pillow for nine months, wept when she had her first son. People like mixed families.

Dr Fisher pretends to herself that she knows exactly when she conceived her "adorable" daughter. "And it was very pleasurable. We all like to think there's something special about the moment when heaven and earth moved and conception took place. But I also know the bald fact that you can make love four days before you ovulate, and the sperm can hit the egg while you are unromantically collecting the Omo from the supermarket shelf."

If she had been able to choose the sex of her babies, she would have been too superstitious to do so. She has had a charmed life, and a healthy family: she would not have wanted to rock the boat.

Yet Fleur Fisher herself sat on the BMA's ethics committee which concluded after prolonged debate that it had no ethical objections to gender selection, and recommended it to the BMA Council. But then the body of the kirk, at last summer's annual meeting, weighed up the couple's right to choose against the effect on society, and decided to err on the safe side. So they voted against sex selection at in vitro fertilisation (IVF) clinics for



Dr Fleur Fisher — "the bald fact is that the sperm can hit the egg while you are unromantically collecting the Omo from the supermarket shelf"

social reasons, though allowing it, of course, for medical reasons. I.e. when there are gender-linked diseases such as haemophilia.

But social reasons are exactly why some people might like to be able to make the choice. They regard one boy and one girl as the perfect, if boring, four-square family, although not everyone can achieve it as tidily as Margaret Thatcher did with mixed twins.

The BMA is probably just waiting for public opinion to become more clear, as well as for some more reliable technique to be developed, as it very soon will. Once a procedure becomes scientifically possible it is very hard to stop.

The telephone has rung ceaselessly at the London Gender Clinic since Tuesday. I gave up trying to ring them, and went along.

London Gender Clinic may sound some like upmarket private venture in Harley Street. The actuality could not be further away geographically and aesthetically: in a suburban street in heart-sinking Hendon. Inside the small house is Dr Rose, a mild grey man. He came out of retirement to join Dr Peter Liu, who had worked for him at St Peter's Urological Hospital in Covent Garden. Their clinic is an American franchise using the methods of one Dr Erickson. It keeps to rigid guidelines. You cannot come if you have no children. This

makes sense, given the atavistic desire for sons first: imagine a society without any eldest daughters, who are a force to be reckoned with. I am one and so is Fleur Fisher. "Every-one thought I was wonderful," she says, "and that affects your

whole life. It gives you an optimism, a breezy confidence and ebullience to the point of what may seem like heedlessness."

The clinic will only help a family. Most couples arriving there already have two or

three — or six, or in one case ten — children of the same sex. Or the wife has had a Caesarean, and can only have one more chance.

Dr Rose says he lives in the real world. Determined couples will either go on having

child after child to get one of the "right" sex or they have abortions after ultrasound or amniocentesis, as in India, where girl fetuses are routinely terminated, causing a preponderance of boys.

"The ethical problem is already here. If we didn't offer it, they would do it by abortion," Dr Rose says. And he asks how, since they are dealing only with parents of more than two children (the average is fewer than two) could they ever affect the balance of society at large. "There might be a blip towards boys but it would be temporary, and it would only make girls more valued," he says.

The BMA can see that the London Gender Clinic is clearly filling a niche, but wants to see it regulated, by extending the remit of the HFEA (Human Fertility and Embryology Authority). And it is sceptical of the validity of the chemical sperm separation method. The method promises an 80 per cent chance of success with a boy, and 70 per cent with a girl — so it is far from foolproof. Couples are questioned carefully: if a child of the "wrong" sex will not do, Dr Rose turns them away.

Dr Rose regards the BMA's objections as characteristic of a deeply conservative body, whose unrepresentative old fogies are the only doctors with the time to attend and vote at annual meetings. "This is the body which objected to contraception, resisted the Pill and refused to recognise osteopaths for 50 years."

Dr Fisher, who has worked in family planning clinics ("the second most important job in a civilised world, after sanitary engineering") muses that infertile couples, whose numbers are growing, must think the fertile are being extraordinarily fastidious if they can't welcome any child of whatever sex.

But science has already altered the shape of society (Dr Fisher's grandfather, like many others, was one of 17 children) and we now have a preponderance of the aged. When we spoke, Dr Fisher was rushing off to Middlesbrough to address the BMA about euthanasia and "end-of-life management", another of her ethical subjects that, for the moment, provokes trench warfare between the fundamentalists and the pragmatists.

"Tampering with nature," as Dr Rose says. "All medicine is tampering with nature."

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Hitting back at smackers

Most parents slap their children, so why should it be banned?

Less than a century ago, men could get away with hitting their wives. Today they would be universally condemned. In 100 years' time, says Peter Newell, we will be horrified that smacking children was ever legal.

Mr Newell is the co-ordinator of Epoch (End Physical Punishment of Children), a voluntary organisation based in north London. Its aim is to ban smacking by law; in the meantime it tries to "educate" parents about other methods of disciplining children.

On Wednesday, the High Court ruled that Anne Davis, a childminder, has the right to smack boys and girls in her care. Epoch described the judgment as "sick" because Mrs Davis is saying she always cuddles a child after smacking," says Mr Newell. "This connection between love and pain is particularly dangerous."

Mr Newell, 55, has worked for several children's rights organisations. He has been an educational journalist, and was an active supporter of Stop, the campaign against school corporal punishment, which was banned in 1986.

Epoch was created to extend that ban to private schools and, ultimately, to the home. When Epoch was set up no organisation cam-

paign against physical punishment of children now 50 do, including the NSPCC.

Their premise is simple. "Adult rights are enshrined in social attitudes and in the law," says Mr Newell. "You cannot hit another adult and get away with it, and children have at least an equal right to protection. We are seeking an extension of the law."

He dislikes the word smacking. "We use it because it sounds less than hitting. It makes us feel more comfortable."

Why would a woman go to court to defend her right to hit a four-year-old? Mr Newell, who has three young sons and was never hit himself, says: "Most people were smacked as children and they don't want to think badly of their own parents."

Surveys show that about 90 per cent of parents have smacked their children. Surely, there is a difference between the odd spontaneous slap and systematic punishment? "Of course," says Mr Newell. "But the important thing is to acknowledge that hitting people is wrong. If you hit your child, you can only apologise profusely. That is what one would do with an adult."

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH



Peter Newell: "sick" judgment

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Philip Howard



A computer's idea of beauty would not pass any other screen test

Psychologists claim to have cracked the oldest puzzle in the book: the one asking what makes us judge a woman beautiful. Western literature opens with this question. And for the 30 centuries since, poets have been raving about it, philosophers have been speculating, scientists have given whatever fashionable bee is nesting in their bonnets a buzz, from pheromones to witchcraft, and dressmakers, photographers and other fleas on the frills of beauty have been biting a living out of it.

The latest answer to the conundrum of why Claudia Schiffer is deemed more attractive than Norah Batty (except by perverts such as Compo), and why Katharine Hepburn was more beautiful than Eleanor Roosevelt, is disappointing. This theory runs that beauty is quantifiable by such factors as eye-size, height of cheek-bones, fullness of lips and other less obvious statistics. But the three faces "morphed" by computer to illustrate the range of female beauty from plain to stunning are indistinguishable, and look to me like antidotes to desire as powerful as the pictures of whoever is the latest peacock bimbo splashed all over the front pages.

The latest conclusions are either absurd — a darkening of the face is off-putting because it suggests that the woman has conceived another man's child — or stale — beauty consists in variation from the average. Francis Bacon thought of that four centuries ago without the help of a computer. "There is no excellent beauty that hath not some strangeness in the proportion."

Only psychologists and writers of romances would imagine that the ingredients of beauty could be itemised as in a menu: two lips indifferent full. Wiser men (and men are usually the sex to offer an opinion on this politically incorrect question) avoid describing beauty because to do so is to confuse a supermarket checkout list with imagination. So Voltaire makes sure that the Rokeby Venus turns her back on the viewer in order to admire herself in the mirror, and Shakespeare's erotic vision of Cleopatra rowing down the Nile to captivate Antony prudently states that her person beggared all description.

Had Cleopatra's nose been shorter, the whole face of the world would have changed. That is a computer's attitude, which makes the mistake of thinking it can quantify beauty. Pascal was on better form when he wrote: *Le coeur a ses raisons que la raison ne connaît point.*

Georges Simenon, who fancied himself as a glutton of female beauty, was walking with the playwright Marcel Pagnol when he suddenly whispered: "Goodness, she must be a beauty!" Looking ahead, Pagnol could see only two young men walking towards them. "Who? Where?" he asked. "She's behind us," replied Simenon. "Then how can you see her?" asked Pagnol. "I can't," said Simenon. "But I can see the look in the eyes of those two boys."

That was the way Shakespeare got around the impossibility of analysing the beauty of Cleopatra, putting observation of its effects in the mouth of a cynical bystander. A stern Roman view is that her dowry of Egypt was part of the attraction. But I prefer to think she had the unmeasurable quality, was clever and witty, and laughed at their jokes.

Helen of Troy's beauty is best left to the romantic imagination, even if you can sign up Elizabeth Taylor to play her in her Playmate Wonderbra with Richard Burton to ask, "Was this the face that launched a thousand ships?" Homer never tried to explain what she looked like. He made her magic by describing her effect on the old men chattering like cicadas on the wall of Troy as Helen walks by below. They declare that ten years of terrible war are no cause for regret, because they were fought over such a beauty: "She is wonderfully like the immortal goddesses to look at."

To an orang-utan Helen would have seemed a naked frog. For a modern Briton she was swarthy and lax about shaving her body-hair. Her cheek-bones and her lips were all wrong, and we never learn the colour of her eyes. In life beauty dies, but not in art. Some questions are beyond the capacity even of computers. They should stick to things they are good at like calculating the beauties of other computers.



This record of shame

Is the violence so often associated with drug-addicts an attempt to kill the painful knowledge of having taken the wrong path?

Admirably enough, *The Guinness Book of Records* has always had a rule that the compilers will not accept anything that involves wrong-doing or putting anyone in danger. But they will be hard pressed to say whether the latest claim (to say nothing of the claimant) will be thought fit for its pages. First, the record — and I had assumed that there could not have been another, even greater, prouder record-holder — was the record for the largest number of crimes confessed to in a single charge. I dare say that the criminal will be eagerly scanning the next edition of the *Guinness Book*, and will be correspondingly affronted if he discovers that his name is not in it. Well, whether basking or raging, he will have ample time for savour or denouement, for he was recently sent down at the Old Bailey for ten years.

And those years were earned, believe me. When he came up before Judge Rucker, he pleaded guilty to nine counts of various crimes and, as the regular phrase goes, asked for other cases to be taken into consideration. They were so taken, and they amounted to 950 — approximately 600 burglaries, 220 cars broken into, and 130 muggings. (If all the offences had been specified singly, reading them out would have taken at least seven hours.)

If I have been a little too frivolous for my readers so far, wait: my story will get painful soon, and then more painful yet. For this is the case of Duane Daniels, who is only 19 years old and had earlier been sentenced to three-and-a-half years for other crimes, and who, on an average day

... smoked half an ounce of cannabis, took 20 rocks of crack at an average cost of £20 a rock, drank ten pints of extra-strength lager, took two doses of LSD and downed a quarter bottle of spirits and handfuls of tranquilisers.

I am not relapsing into the facetious when I wonder how, with that quantity of drugs in him, he could have carried out any of the 950 crimes, or even been sufficiently sober to snatch the hat of a passer-by, let alone run off with it. But he managed it: drugged or sober, he managed it. Here's how:

John Metcalf was a typical victim. He was alone, working in the locked offices of John Mowlem, the building contractor, when Daniels tried him in opening the door by claiming to be a cleaner. He was smashed over the head with a bottle, robbed of his credit card,

and tied up with telephone wires and stabbed repeatedly in the legs to make him reveal his PIN.

In outline, apart from the numbers involved, this is a familiar story, including, from the forlorn defence counsel, "Daniels became addicted to drugs at 13 and ran wild when he was expelled from various schools. He had had behavioural problems since the age of five and never had any parental control." But the words that haunt me from this story are a mere 32 in number. Remember, Daniels and his gang were not just brutal thugs, beating up innocent people because they felt like doing so. They were brutal thugs, beating up innocent people because they felt like doing so, but there was a purpose: theft. Now, if the 950 cases broke all records for the number of crimes, how could anyone, police or victims or angels, discover how much had been stolen throughout the years of robbery?

But that takes me back to my 32 words. They were spoken by a policeman who had watched Daniels grow up from a tearaway child to a savage criminal, and he said:

He stole thousands and thousands of pounds worth of stuff and all he had to show for it was the clothes that he stood up in. It had all gone on drugs.

Heaven forbid that I should take sides in the arguments over the decriminalisation of drugs. As a man who has never so much as touched a joint, let alone smoked hash, indeed has never ingested anything more in the way of drugs than a couple of paracetamol tablets for a headache, my opinion on the subject would not be worth ignoring. But if I cannot come to a conclusion on so heated a dispute, I can, I think, say a few words about human beings.

Daniels (when he was sentenced he grinned and winked at the public gal-

lery, presumably because some of his gang had turned up to see their hero sent down) showed criminal tendencies as early as 11; there is no earlier history of criminal behaviour in his family, and indeed his mother cried valiantly to turn his head away from crime in vain.

What are we to suppose? Whatever it is, if it sounds like, much less looks like, predestination, I shall refuse to agree: the Manichee will have no help from me. Very well, says the Manichee, explain why this child became a brutal criminal when most children do not.

What are we to suppose? Whatever it is, if it sounds like, much less looks like, predestination, I shall refuse to agree: the Manichee will have no help from me. Very well, says the Manichee, explain why this child became a brutal criminal when most children do not.

It is not enough to say that the drugs did it. Just as Daniels was a brutal criminal and we don't know why he, out of the many, was the one, so the drugs enticed him and not others. And there is another conundrum in the story: a drug-taker who has to have his fix will do anything to get it — lie, cheat, steal, assault, injure, ultimately kill.

Well, Daniels tortured his victims to find their money or credit-card numbers, he beat or stabbed those who tried to stop him, he had no compunction when robbing those who looked like having money with them. But even when a victim headed over his money, wallet, credit-cards, jewellery and anything else of value, peacefully and without trying to resist, Daniels and his gang would viciously assault the peaceable victim before leaving with the loot. Hear again, the policeman who had to watch it happen: "Years ago they might snatch a handbag — now they snatch the handbag and stab the victim."

Bernard Levin

Morton stands by

THE QUEEN'S surprise arrival at the Savoy hotel (apparently via a tradesman's cart) for the 30th birthday party thrown for Prince Edward by his girlfriend Sophie Rhys-Jones is being seen as highly significant by royal-watchers. Particularly, it seems, by Andrew Morton, journalist turned constitutional expert and author of that subversive bestseller *Diana: Her True Story*.

For Morton has let it be known that a royal engagement is just about the only thing that will induce him to write another book on the House of Windsor. After the family gathering at the Savoy, close friends of the author (a source Morton understands well) say he is now on amber alert.

Morton's publisher, Michael O'Mara Books, certainly hopes so. "We're renowned for rushing out royal books very quickly," says an excited spokeswoman.

The omens certainly look propitious. As well as the Queen, Princess Anne and her husband Commander Tim Laurence popped in to put the family seal of approval on the royal romance. But is Buckingham Palace, still reeling from the revelations and repercussions of the last Morton oeuvre, ready for another? Somehow one

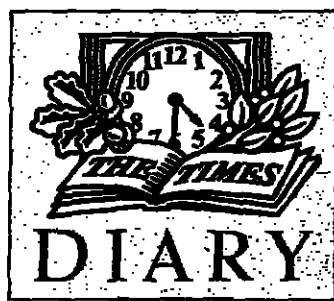
doubts it. "It's an interesting subject," says Morton. "I will write a book about Prince Edward if they get married." As for the timing, Morton leaves the last word to his publisher: "We're just waiting for them to fix a date."

Trifle seasick

JOHN MCCARTHY, whose career as a television journalist was cruelly interrupted by 1943 days of captivity in Beirut, is re-summing work.

McCarthy will team up with his old friend the comedian Sandi Toksvig. Some years ago McCarthy and Toksvig shared a flat. This time round the pair will share a 1911 Bristol Pilot cutter, which they plan to sail around Britain for a new eight-part BBC documentary series, *Island Race*.

Their boat, which measures just 50ft, will complete the journey in four months. "I know the boat is much the same size as many of the places we were held captive," says McCarthy, who is a keen sailor. "What will prevent it being a water-borne prison is that we will have the freedom to leap ashore when wind and tide allow. And with Sandi aboard the trip is certain to be hilarious." Toksvig,



however, has her doubts. "When we far-shared, the only thing John could cook was trifle. His girlfriend Jill Morrell says nothing has changed. I am getting in supplies of custard."

Pardon?

THE AIRWAVES were fairly crackling yesterday on Radio 4 when Max Clifford, the PR man who fixed it for the former Lady Buck and for David Mellor's one-time lover Antonia de Sancha, took to the microphone.

Clifford had been asked to appear as a witness on *The Moral Maze*, the lively discussion programme chaired by Michael Buerk, which yesterday addressed the sensitive subject of chequebook journalism. The discussion deteriorated into a heated and anatomically challenging exchange between Clifford and one of the pro-

gramme's regular panelists, Edward Pearce of *The Guardian*.

"It was meant to be a general discussion of chequebook journalism," Ed Pearce wanted to attack me for my role in the Lady Buck affair," says Clifford. "I began to get a bit angry and told him he was talking rubbish." Alas, Clifford used an alternative form of words on air, prompting the proverbial plug to be pulled.

Conversion to Roman Catholicism seems likely to spread beyond the aristocracy and ministers. York pensioners who were recently banned from playing bingo in their local Anglican church hall have found sanctuary with a nearby Catholic church. "As far as I'm concerned there is only one God," says pensioner Nellie Davies. "And I'm sure he doesn't mind people playing bingo."

Patrick's hat-trick

A SMATTERING of MPs, a triumvirate of Secretaries of State for Northern Ireland past and present and Spike Milligan drowned the shamrock in style at the Irish embassy's traditionally lively eve-of-St Patrick's Day bash.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, sporting a Guinness moustache, held forth on the benefits of lough boating, and admitted his St Patrick's Day celebrations would continue. "But

I'm certainly not confiding how." His predecessors in the job, Tom King and Lord Whitelaw, were also drinking up the Irish hospitality, but the spirit of Anglo-Irish accord was not all-encompassing. In contrast to previous hoolies at the Irish embassy, there was not a Unionist to be seen.

In the can?

THE SECRET of CNN's formidable television news coverage in the world's trouble spots is out at last. Its film crews and reporters are fed on quality rations from Marks & Spencer. The information was let slip at a Reform Club dinner for Peter Arnett, the veteran war reporter best known here for his reports from Baghdad. "It all started during the Gulf



Whose house is it anyway?

Blandford would disgrace the Lords, says John Grigg

Lord Blandford is in the news again, as the family trustees seek to disinherit him from future control of Blenheim and its estate. They feel that a man whose brushes with the law began when he stole a policeman's helmet soon after leaving Harrow, and who has since had a record of drugs offences, a period on probation, and two brief spells in jail, is not a suitable person to run a historic house and an estate with an annual turnover of more than £2 million. If the nation had trustees, perhaps they would be giving equal thought to the Marquess's suitability as a potential legislator.

There must be many worthy objects of sympathy than Lord Blandford. All the same, it is worth pointing out that his great-great-great-uncle, Lord Randolph Churchill, started his career in much the same manner as Blandford. On March 4, 1870, as an undergraduate at Oxford, Lord Randolph got into a fight with a policeman called Partridge as he was leaving a drunken dinner at the Randolph Hotel (no relation). The policeman's helmet was stolen, and Churchill made matters worse by trying to bribe him not to bring a charge. Nevertheless, he was fined for assault.

He then had the nerve to bring a counter-charge against Partridge for perjury, claiming that he had not attacked the policeman, had not offered him money, and was not drunk. The case went against Churchill on the evidence of a waiter at the Randolph Hotel called Wren, who testified to the large amount of champagne, hock, sherry, claret, port and punch that Churchill and his friends had consumed, and also said that Churchill had threatened him with a wine-cooler. The case against Partridge was dismissed.

Shortly after the trial, Wren was summarily dismissed from the Randolph Hotel and the Oxford Times reported that Churchill had told the manager he would boycott the hotel so long as Wren was employed there. This was not contradicted by Churchill, so it may be assumed to have been true.

Despite the very bad local publicity that this youthful misdemeanour earned him, Lord Randolph was in due course elected to Parliament for the family seat of Woodstock. As a Parliamentarian he became brilliantly effective, and at one point seemed likely to rise to the very top. But as Chancellor of the Exchequer and Leader of the Commons, he showed that he was a young man in a hurry (having described Gladstone as an old man in that state). He made the mistake of resigning, and that was the end of him. Perhaps his impatience was due to early symptoms of the illness that killed him a few years later, at the age of 45.

Though he had devoted friends and admirers, his personal behaviour remained controversial. In 1876, as a backbench MP, he resorted to blackmail to prevent his elder brother — the Blandford of the day — from being subpoenaed as co-respondent in a divorce case. The woman in the case, Lady Aylesford, gave Blandford a batch of letters that the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) had written to her some years before, and Blandford handed them to Lord Randolph, who made the most unscrupulous use of them.

In the absence of the Prince of Wales, Lord Randolph called on the Princess (Alexandra) and warned her that if the divorce action went ahead, the Prince too would be subpoenaed. The letters would then be published, and would ensure that the Prince would "never sit upon the throne of England". The Prince was so furious at this conduct by a man whom he had thought of as a friend that he challenged Lord Randolph to a duel on the north coast of France. But the duel did not take place, and Lord Aylesford decided, after all, not to divorce his wife. The blackmail worked.

Whatever may be said of his character, Lord Randolph had the advantage of talent. He was anyway in no danger of being disinherited, because he was a younger son and therefore, under the iron law of primogeniture, debarred from inheriting Blenheim.

We cannot be at all sure that the Blenheim trustees will succeed, but we know for sure that if he survives his father he will automatically succeed as Duke of Marlborough and so become free (unless he is in prison) to take his seat in the House of Lords. It is therefore quite possible that a man legally declared unfit to run an estate will nevertheless be treated as fit to sit in Parliament and have a share in deciding national policy.

This obviously grotesque anomaly should draw everyone's attention to the chronic absurdity of hereditary membership of Parliament. Lord Blandford would, as Duke of Marlborough, not only be free to act as a national legislator, but for doing so would receive at least some compensation from public funds for whatever he might have forfeited, financially, on the private side.

There are plenty of other instances of hereditary peers with neither character nor talent to recommend them, but the Blandford case does suggest that there may be one rule for private property and another for the public interest — with the latter losing out.

Even life peers have a charmed status which defies all logic. Any titled person convicted of a criminal offence is likely to be stripped of his title, unless he is a peer, hereditary or life. Sir Jack Lyons was sent to prison and also lost his knighthood. Lord Kagan was sent to prison and is still Lord Kagan. The House of Lords is the last refuge of unjustifiable privilege.



PRINCIPLE ISSUE

Hurd must carry on fighting to maintain a blocking veto

At yesterday's Cabinet meeting, ministers decided that home politics should take precedence over Euro-politics: in other words, Douglas Hurd should continue to fight for the blocking veto on EU legislation to be maintained. The Cabinet is right. But the maintenance of the veto should be more than a sop to recalcitrant Conservative backbenchers. It is a serious matter of principle that should be trumped loudly both in Britain and Europe.

When 12 member states design a constitution for the new enlarged European Union, it is not a job to be undertaken lightly. If two members are unhappy with the proposed distribution of power, they are right to oppose it. Their objections are a fundamental matter: and to dismiss them as obstructionist is to misunderstand the nature of the task. France may rightly be called obstructionist this week for demanding, at the very last minute, an extension of fish prices as a quid pro quo for accepting Norway's membership. But British and Spanish anxieties are of a different class.

When British ministers were trying to persuade their colleagues of the virtues of the Maastricht treaty, the argument they used most frequently was that Europe was "moving in our direction" — towards subsidiarity and away from federalism. Since the treaty was signed, it has become clear that neither the Commission, nor Britain's partners, nor the European Parliament, have any intention of allowing subsidiarity in social policy, one of the two areas in which British people believed the country would not have to go along with European norms.

What better test of other states' real intentions on subsidiarity could there be than their attitude to this current dispute? Raising the blocking veto to 27 would dilute national sovereignty still further. Although there are indications that public opinion across Europe is moving Britain's way, there

is no sign that such a mood has yet caught on inside European governments, still less in the Commission itself. Since it is the Commission that instigates directives on which the Council of Ministers votes, there are good reasons for making decisions harder to reach in order to prevent the ratchet of federalism taking hold in a direction that may prove irreversible.

In five, ten or perhaps 20 years, public anxieties about pooling sovereignty may have percolated through to Europe's political classes. Until then, Britain has a duty to try to stop its fellow member states from hurrying towards a goal that most of their voters do not want. Retaining the current veto would strengthen the checks and balances against the self-interested federalism of other governments. The essential purpose of checks and balances is to make bad decision-making more difficult.

Spain has offered a "compromise" which retains all the power of the current veto while allowing the other ten members and the European Parliament to save face. Though the official blocking minimum would rise to 27 in the new treaty, any two big states plus one small state could between them block a proposal, even if their combined votes fell short of 27. In other words, the status quo would be maintained, except that a large number of small states would not be able to gang up against the big states. That would suit Britain well.

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, should join forces with Spain in fighting for this formula. He will probably not win it at next week's meeting, and he will have to be prepared to fight on, whatever opprobrium is heaped on him by other countries. But most important, he must fight on positive ground. This is a matter of principle, and to see it as one of electoral expediency is selling Britain — and Europe — short.

NOT CHILD'S PLAY

Universal nursery education is an idea whose time has come

Conservative education ministers have been considering proposals for universal nursery education since Margaret Thatcher first promised reform in 1972. The subject is still in the pending tray. Yesterday John Patten, the Education Secretary, was strongly criticised in a report by the Royal Society of Arts which called the current provision of pre-school education "little short of a scandal". This RSA study, written by Sir Christopher Ball, is flawed in some of its prescriptions. But it does reflect a genuine groundswell of opinion in favour of universal provision. The government must now respond.

Most available research suggests that children's prospects are significantly improved if they take part in well-organised learning activities at the age of three and four. Although the benefits of nursery education are easily lost if primary schooling is poor, and although public provision of nursery education is expensive and labour-intensive, the pump-priming costs ought to be offset by the likely social benefits.

Children who have been given a decent nursery education are more likely to perform well at school — and beyond — and less likely to slide into disaffection. Properly integrated with suitable childcare, universal provision of nursery lessons would also release thousands of mothers to work or to seek further education during the day. The proportion of British single mothers who have pre-school children and who work is less than half the average European rate. Releasing young women from this dependency trap would reduce the welfare bill and might ultimately represent a net gain to the public coffers because of increased tax revenue.

Mr Patten is expected to announce preliminary proposals in the next few weeks and to

implement reform in the next few years. Turning principle into policy will not be straightforward. The RSA study proposes to fund reform by raising the starting age for compulsory schooling to six. Such a solution would be unpopular with parents as well as impractical and educationally dubious. A more pressing problem for the Education Secretary will be the transition from a system of block grants given to local authorities to a system which guarantees individual parents funding for nursery education. Untangling the current financing of pre-school provision will be complex.

Mr Patten must also decide how best to allot the funds at his disposal. If means-testing is found to be necessary, it must be graduated so that parents whose circumstances improve do not suddenly find themselves faced with vast bills. Above all, he will have to ensure that the spending of nursery "vouchers" — or their equivalent — is sufficiently regulated to ensure that the taxpayer's money is fruitfully spent. Though the Government's inclination is to preserve the existing diversity of pre-school services and to respect parental choice, it should realise that playgroup provision is far less educationally beneficial than structured nursery classes. The difference should not be glossed over.

The Government should not be disheartened by difficult questions of this kind. This is precisely the sort of theme that Conservative policy-makers should now be pursuing. Universal provision of nursery education would present the State as enabler rather than nanny, urging parents and their children to become self-reliant and to improve their chances in life. In a modest way, it maps out the territory of future electoral battles.

A PROCESS STALLED

The PLO must return to the negotiating table

Peace talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, set in historic motion by the Declaration of Principles signed last September, have ground to a distressing halt. The two parties were on the verge of concluding the details of a protocol of withdrawal — from the Gaza Strip and Jericho — when the murderous acts of an Israeli settler in Hebron caused the PLO to break off talks.

The PLO refuses to return unless Israel agrees to meet its demands for the dismantling of militant settlements, the stationing in the Occupied Territories of an international protection force, and the disarming of all settlers. Although none of its demands has been met it must return to the negotiating table now. Not to do so would be to commit an historic error. The peace process is the only way forward: the chairman of the PLO has no choice but to continue to work within its framework.

In the immediate aftermath of the Hebron massacre, Mr Arafat's reluctance to return to negotiations without guarantees from Israel was understandable. But Israel has taken significant steps in response: it has proscribed Jewish extremist groups and launched a high-level commission of enquiry. The Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres, has pledged that Israel will take "additional steps" if the PLO resumes talks.

In addition, there has been a subtle but important change in the "language of settlements". Israeli government spokes-

men, and even Mr Peres, increasingly employ the word "evacuation" where previously "dismantling" was in use. The latter is emotionally charged, carrying a sense of finality and the imputation of collective guilt; the former suggests that the departure of settlers from certain controversial settlements is, essentially, for the good of those that depart. It appears that ground is being prepared cautiously for a change in policy.

In the atmosphere of international expectation that hangs over the peace process, it is easy to overlook the fact that Mr Rabin is an Israeli politician: he faces, and must deal with, serious domestic pressure. He has to carry the centre and the right with him, both within his coalition and in the country at large. And they are not yet ready for radical new moves on the question of settlements.

Mr Arafat, under pressure from the White House to resume talks, faces an unenviable choice: a return to talks will enrage many Palestinians, not all of them extremists; but a collapse of the process will spell the end of the only prospect for peace that his people have. Hamas, and other extremists groups, will move swiftly into the vacuum. But if Mr Arafat returns to talks, the Israelis must ensure that no more time is wasted in the conclusion of the protocol of withdrawal. And Mr Rabin must begin to construct a coherent long-term strategy that embraces the anxieties of the PLO. His "peace by instalments" must be guided not just by *realpolitik* but also by a conciliatory vision.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 071-782 5000

Threat to quality of local services

From the Chief Executive of the Library Association and others

Sir, We believe that most of the debate on the future structure of local government in England, Scotland and Wales (leading article, March 16) has unhelpfully centred on boundaries, historic names and assessments of political advantage.

Our organisations, which represent people who work in local authorities providing a wide range of services, would like to raise the issue of quality of service.

Most of these services, such as archives, education, public libraries, social services and trading standards, are locally delivered. They are embedded in their local communities.

We fear that the simplistic range of options put before the public in the current debates in the shire counties of England tends to obscure the reality. It is not just a question of whether people feel that they "belong" to a particular town, county, region or country. It is not just a question of whether a few districts could get together to form a unitary authority.

It is also a question of the depth of skills and resources required to underpin the effective delivery of services which people want and need.

If the outcome of the present deliberations of the Local Government Commission for England is the abolition of all of the counties and the establishment of a larger number of small unitary authorities, the likelihood is a deterioration of standards in many of the services currently provided and increased costs. The transitional costs would be substantial and, we believe, have been seriously underestimated.

We urge the Government to call a halt to the work of the commission until these issues can be considered.

Yours faithfully,
ROSS SHIMMON,
Chief Executive,
The Library Association,
HELEN FORDE
(Chairman),
The Society of Archivists,
JIM HENDY
(General Secretary),
Society of County Education Officers,
DSREK JONES
(Honorary Secretary),
Federation of Local Authority
Chief Librarians,
JOHN REA PRICE
(Director),
National Children's Bureau,
c/o The Library Association,
7 Ridgmont Street, WCL
March 17.

Royal security

From Dr Alec Dickson

Sir, Those responsible for safeguarding the property of the Queen's family seem to rival each other in negligence. The theft of the Queen's wedding certificate and other royal documents (report, March 8) only came to the notice of the Public Record Office after the police had retrieved the papers from the black market.

One might have assumed that the priceless gifts presented over the years to the Prince of Wales would have been secure at St James's Palace. But no, they seem to have been looted with apparent ease (details, March 8).

Not so long ago an interloper was able to enter the Queen's private apartments at Buckingham Palace and conduct a conversation without interruption by alarms or intervention by guards.

Common to all incidents seems to be a degree of professional incompetence. The royal family deserves better.

Yours faithfully,
ALEC DICKSON,
19 Blenheim Road, W4,
March 10.

BBC statistics

From Dr Sylvia Harvey

Sir, On the eve of the publication of the Government's White Paper on the BBC one matter which has received little attention is the availability of statistical data on the corporation.

For many decades the BBC has published, either in its annual report or in its *Guide to the BBC*, a great deal of information about the origin and quantity of its hours of output, its costs, its audience reach, etc.

None of this detailed information appears in the most recent BBC *Annual Review*, despite a commitment from the governors to "clarify and improve the BBC's accountability to the public".

Could we have some reassurance from the corporation that the missing facts and figures will be published as a matter of urgency? Such data will be needed if there is to be a fair, accurate and well-informed debate about the BBC's future.

Yours sincerely,
SYLVIA HARVEY
(Reader in Broadcasting Policy),
Sheffield Hallam University,
School of Cultural Studies,
Fulmer Lane Campus,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,
March 12.

Business letters, page 27

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

The need for film-makers to separate fact from fiction

From Mr Gerry Lewis

Sir, "The best, first stab at truth in the time available," says Simon Jenkins ("Stories that get in the way of facts", March 12), is the journalistic ethos that creates the bond of trust between reader and writer.

Here is a small demonstration of the fragility of "truth". Mr Jenkins quotes the Jerusalem correspondent of *The Times*, writing about the reception of *Schindler's List* in Israel (March 5) as reporting that survivors found the portrayal of Oskar Schindler unrecognisable and his story "nothing like what really occurred". Mr Jenkins then adds: "None was consulted in making the film."

In fact, Mr Leopold Pfefferberg, a Schindler survivor, was a consultant on the film and very many other survivors were consulted before and during the making of the film. So was Mr Thomas Kenally, the author whose well-researched book was the basis for the film.

Mrs Emilie Schindler watched the film at its Washington premiere and told Steven Spielberg that the man on the screen was her husband. Mrs Pfefferberg said to me, after her first viewing of the film in New York: "That is exactly how it was."

Some survivors in Israel were critical. Some, who had not been consulted, differed from the survivors who had been consulted. But to state that none were consulted is simply untrue.

Simon Jenkins presents the report of your Jerusalem correspondent as though it is "the truth". As he said in his thoughtful article: "Facts are elusive things. Getting them wrong is quicker, simpler and usually makes a better story..."

Yours sincerely,
GERRY LEWIS
(International marketing consultant to Steven Spielberg),
Gerry Lewis & Company,
UIP House, Beadon Road, W6.

Trade and aid

From the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

Sir, Your editorial, "The right aid" (March 4), which seeks to draw lessons from the controversial bilateral funded Pergau dam project, argues that bilateral aid should be favoured over the multilateral form.

Bilateral aid certainly does have an important role to play, as you have suggested. That does not mean, however, that multilateral agencies have no place.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been a forceful advocate for the reform of development aid.

We have pointed out that most aid does not go to the poorest countries or the poorest people. Of UNDP's total grant assistance, 50 per cent goes to the least developed countries, while 87 per cent is provided as support to countries with an annual per capita income of less than \$750.

UNDP has championed the cause of human development, which means investing in people, not in massive infrastructure projects that often hurt poor people and cause damage to the environment.

As a multilateral agency, we have enjoyed the freedom of action to pursue such goals and as a result poor countries regard UN assistance as much more than a budgetary adjunct.

Missing songbirds

From Mrs Frances Manson

Sir, Mr Underwood is right to point out the danger to thrushes of slug pellets (letter, March 4). They have never been used in our garden nor in the fields and woods which surround it, yet we too see fewer thrushes and other small birds every year.

A few, such as tits, flycatchers and wagtails, appear as numerous as ever and once-scarce wrens have become so common that they must now compete for territory as boldly as robins.

Can it be coincidence that these are all hole-nesters and that members of the crow family are also flourishing?

When I set out on a spring morning to find the remains of a nest or flakes of blue egg-shell strewn across the yard or see two magpies on our vine squabbling as they tear apart a tiny naked body, I am convinced that the worst enemies of our declining songbirds are not human but corvine.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCES MANSON,
Barn Pit Shaw, Poppinghole Lane,
Robertsbridge, East Sussex.

Small share-out

From Mr D. B. Harrison

Sir, A few years ago I was concerned, like Sir Claude Hayes (letter, March 12), about a small dividend I received each year from a public company.

After some enquiries I found that the dividends "so that we can then either gain the benefit of the yearly dividends payable or alternatively sell the shares through our brokers at no charge" I was thus "rid ... of this toxicology" and a good cause was served.

Yours faithfully,
D. B. HARRISON,
2 Leicester Close,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire,
March 14.

From Mr Douglas Verrall

Sir, Simon Jenkins should not be surprised. Lady Truth has always been used by artists to justify their own visions. Creating new truths in the guise of documentary is nothing new.

Shakespeare, for example, wrote "histories" in which he used the names of real kings and battles but altered dates and ages and introduced fictional characters and events. A poetic truth was forged which was greater than the sum of fact and fiction.

Yours sincerely,
DOUGLAS VERRALL,
3 Springfield Road,
St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex,
March 12.

From Mr Roy Atherton

Sir, I applaud Simon Jenkins's attack on film-makers who are careless with the truth and his reassertion of some good journalistic principles. Alistair Cooke, in *Sir Men* (Penguin, 1981), records that H. L. Mencken taught him that "to the extent that a reporter is a

Schindler's town

From Mr Peter Doble

Sir, It is not surprising that most of the current inhabitants of the town of Svitavy (formerly Zwettau) had not heard of Oskar Schindler (Diary, March 10).

As part of the German-speaking Sudetenland forcibly separated from Austria in 1919, this town fell victim to the infamous Benes decrees which cleansed Czechoslovakia of most of its three million German population in 1945-46.

Yours faithfully,
PETER DOBLE,
221c Gloucester Terrace, W2,
March 11.

UK aid channelled through UNDP is a good investment for Britain. In recent years, for every pound given to UNDP, the UK has received a return flow of nearly £2 spent on British expertise, equipment and training.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES GUSTAVE SPEITH,
Administrator, United Nations
Development Programme,
1 United Nations Plaza,
New York, NY 10017,
March 14.

From the President of the Society of British Aerospace Companies

Sir, Further to Peter Godwin's letter (March 12) about jobs being reliant on trade with Malaysia, the British aerospace industry employs more than 140,000 people, all of whom are employed solely on the supply of capital goods and the services associated with capital goods, and many of whom are currently working on contracts with Malaysia.

Much of British manufacturing industry would take similar issue with Andrew Neil's statement that such contracts "employ almost nobody" (report, March 8).

Yours faithfully,
R. W. K. MCNULTY,
President,
The Society of British
Aerospace Companies,
20 King Street, St James's, SW1,
March 12.

Vintage gun

From Lieutenant Commander C. F. Langmead, RNR

Sir, I enjoyed your photo (March 16) of the RN Sea King helicopter removing the Second World War Bofors "vintage gun" from the heights overlooking Gornji Vakuf in Bosnia.

You may like to know that this same weapon (complete with the famous hand-crank gun-laying system and "spider" wire sight) is still in active naval service, though only just.

It is the sole mounted anti-aircraft weapon on the current "River Class" fleet minesweepers, built for and sailed by the Royal Naval Reserve in the late 1980s, now sadly to be paid off this year following a review of the ageing RNR. A real matter of "Reserve vintage" perhaps?

Yours sincerely,
C. F. LANGMEAD,
Acorn Quay, Evendine Corner,
Cotwall Green, Malvern Hills,
Hereford and Worcester.

Hardy annual

From Miss Hilda Parker

Sir, Your report (March 10) the record price, at auction in Edinburgh, of £1,610 for a 1936 Rupert Bear annual "in mint condition".

I have a Rupert Bear annual, circa Christmas 1928. It is not in mint condition — my brother and I knew the stories by heart, and loved them all. This well-worn book has served a second generation, and now we have the third (triplets) not quite ready for the innocent entertainment of Mary Tourtel's tales.

I am very sorry for Margaret Murrell, who was not allowed to read her copy. She has missed a lot.

Yours faithfully,
H. PARKER,
77 Ridgside Avenue,
Withden, Brighton, Sussex,
March 11.

Liberal reporter or a Communist reporter, he is no reporter at all."

I too was dismayed by Oliver Stone's film on President Kennedy's assassination, *JFK* — a mixture of fact and speculation, wrapped in overpowering drama — and equally dismayed that my companions in the cinema were not. Jenkins's message is vital as we try to make sense of the complicated modern world. Art and journalism should be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

Yours sincerely,
ROY ATHERTON,
12 Hutton Close, Earley,
Reading, Berkshire,
March 14.

From Mr Peter Lush

Sir, Simon Jenkins describes *Schindler's List* as telling "a story of the saving of some Polish Jews by a Nazi businessman with a heart of gold". Having seen the film, I think that it would be much nearer the truth to describe it as a story of the saving of some Polish Jews by an unprincipled Nazi entrepreneur with a heart of greed. Schindler is depicted as seeing ways to exploit both Nazi lack of scruples and the Jewish prisoners in order to fill his own pockets with an immense amount of money.

The real point of the story, surely, is that as he became more and more involved with the Jewish slave labourers Schindler experienced a subtle change of heart and developed a conscience, which led to the seemingly miraculous saving of those men, women and children.

Any bending of fact is irrelevant, in my opinion, to the main thrust of the story.

Yours sincerely,
PETER LUSH,
61 Broadmeadow Road,
Wyke Regis, Weymouth, Dorset,
March 14.

Barristers' fees

From Mr Eugene Hickey

Sir, Lord Justice Henry proposes (report, March 8) that a trial judge should assess counsel's performance as part of the determination of counsel's fees in legal aid cases. This noble attempt to safeguard public funds should be extended.

The judge is ultimately responsible for the conduct of a trial. Accordingly I suggest that a judge's annual salary should be performance-related. His wages should be assessed at the end of the year by all counsel who have appeared before him during that time.

This would have to be done at an annual meeting of such counsel. I anticipate such meetings would be well attended.

Yours faithfully,
EUGENE HICKEY,
1 Dr Johnson's Buildings,
Temple, EC4,
March 8.

From Mr Martin Beddoe

Sir, Lord Justice Henry suggests that barristers should be paid according to judicial assessment of their performance. Has he not heard of the case of the Lillhammer Two?

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN BEDDOE,
Penners Chambers,
3 Madingley Road, Cambridge,
March 8.

Asthma incidence

From Dr J. W. Pauley

Sir, Dr Duncan Keeley asks (Body and Mind, March 1) why the death rate from asthma is actually increasing despite "enormous progress" in developing effective medicines for its treatment. Perhaps it is now time to ask whether this progress may have also indirectly contributed to the problem.

I suggest that one answer to Dr Keeley's question is the almost total neglect by medical research workers of the emotional causes of this disorder over many years, during which social factors predisposing to emotional deprivation and strife in some families and communities have escalated.

A secondary effect of this has been detrimental "smothering" and overprotection, the result of parental overconcern. It is no longer safe for parents to allow children in many parts of the country to go to school alone, or walk and play alone.

As a result fewer children can achieve the independence previously possible.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. PAULEY,
Christchurch Park Hospital,
57 Foremore Road,
Ipswich, Suffolk,
March 2.

Fortified on two fronts

From Mr Arnold Freedman

Sir, "Ravelin", in Philip Howard's *Word-Watching* (March 15), was also the answer to 5 down in the crossword that day. Is this a remarkable coincidence, a new game, or Howard's revenge for being banished to the sports section?

Yours faithfully,
ARNOLD FREEDMAN,
5 Chadlington Road, Oxford,
March 16.

Major visits Sarajevo as siege ends

John Major has flown out to Sarajevo, on a visit shrouded in secrecy for security reasons, to boost the morale of British troops in the war zone.

As he did so, a deal was struck to lift the two-year siege of the Bosnian capital by the republic's Muslims and Serbs. Mr Major is also expected to fly to Vitez to meet British troops. Pages 1, 10

RAF search for five missing soldiers

The Royal Air Force have started searching for five soldiers missing on a Malaysian mountain where local people have been known to vanish without trace. Rescuers began climbing Mount Kinabalu looking for two British Army officers and three Hong Kong soldiers last seen nearly a fortnight ago. Pages 1, 3

Hurd woos Bonn

Douglas Hurd has launched a last-ditch attempt to secure the backing of Germany in an effort to resolve the voting row in the European Union. Page 1

Billiere confession

Sir Peter de la Billière, Britain's commander in the Gulf war, has confessed that he was a teenage delinquent with a taste for larceny, experimental bomb-making and illicit drinking. Page 1

Harding enquiry

An enquiry is under way into possible security breaches arising from the affair between Sir Peter Harding, the Chief of the Defence Staff who resigned last Sunday, and the ex-wife of a former Tory minister. Page 2

Nursery vouchers

John Major has given the go-ahead to radical plans to expand nursery education through a voucher scheme. Page 2

Gang jailed

Jail sentences totalling almost 60 years were imposed on a gang of ten youths for a brick attack on a police patrol car that almost killed one of the officers. Page 3

Howard criticised

Michael Howard illegally authorised Scotland Yard to seek warrants to raid a firm of accountants and the offices of a firm of international solicitors, the High Court ruled. Page 4

Clinton taxes come under spotlight

The Clintons, under growing pressure to revamp the White House presidential team, look increasingly likely to face the added embarrassment of having to admit to the underpayment of taxes during the 1980s. Making such an admission and having to pay penalties would be damaging for a President who has implemented record tax increases. Page 9

Patients endangered

An incompetent anaesthetist who was endangering his patients was allowed to continue working in two NHS hospitals because of staff shortages, a disciplinary hearing was told. Page 8

Son killed parents

The former army officer Roderick Newall beat his parents to death with a martial arts rice flail in a drunken row about his career and childhood, a Jersey court was told. Page 5

Saddam anger

Iraqis began hoarding supplies as rumours swept Baghdad that President Saddam Hussein would embark on a military adventure against the Kurds or Kuwait. Page 11

Russian threat

Russia came near to walking out on the Bosnian peace process because of NATO's threat to use air strikes against Bosnian Serbs after the Sarajevo market massacre, Lord Owen said. Page 10

Franco-German strife

Germany and France have tried their best to paper over the cracks in their relationship exposed by an unusually outspoken ambassador. Page 12

NZ republican call

The New Zealand Prime Minister is picking a fight with a largely silent majority in calling for a republic. Page 9



Lady Chalker, overseas development minister, wearing a bulletproof jacket on her arrival at Tuzla airport in Bosnia. Reports, pages 1 and 10

Air: The Government should scrap

many restrictions on American airlines using British airports in order to settle a row over air agreements, MPs said. Page 21

Guinness: One of the world's top

drinks companies upset the stock market with a disappointing set of 1993 figures and a gloomy statement on 1994. Page 21

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose

12.8 points to close at 3255.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 80.5 after a rise from \$1.4918 to \$1.4971 but a fall from DM2.5223 to DM2.5154. Page 24

Cricket: England skipper Michael

Asherton scored a remarkable century to help his side recover from a bad start against the West Indies in the second Test at Georgetown, Guyana. Page 40

Racing: The Fellow, twice runner-

up, won the Cheltenham Gold Cup with Jodami, last year's winner, finishing second. Pages 37, 40

Golf: Philip Price, of Wales, hit the

best round of his career to take a one-stroke lead in the Portuguese Open at Penha Longa. With an eight-birdie 64, Price leads on seven under par, ahead of Costantino Rocca of Italy. Page 35

Valerie Grove: At the heart of the

moral dilemmas posed by designer babies. Page 15

Crime and punishment: Those who

believe smacking children is a crime. Page 15

Dishonour thy parents: Children of

the famous with an axe to grind. Page 14

Identity crisis: Why has the film

Oscar become a tortured, dysfunctional male? Page 14

News and jobs: Information tech-

nology opportunities. Pages 28-30

Science in the spotlight: During

National Science Week, which begins today, more than a thousand events around the country will be aimed at showing the public that science can be entertaining as well as useful. Page 31

Soweto on screen: A six-part docu-

mentary series about South Africa, *Beloved Country*, began last night with a gripping account of life in Soweto. Page 31

Pop on Friday: Punk returns, light-

ly disguised: Morrissey's new album is reviewed; and Caitlin Moran profiles The Wonder Stuff. Page 33

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Brighton belle in an open top

Lynne Truss swaps her battered Peugeot 205 for a brand new Jaguar XJS — and drives topless through Brighton

With the king of the beasts

Four pages of travel: Simon Barnes eyeballs the king of the beasts; and Brian Clarke finds a river where sea trout bigger than salmon dance

CD offer: Perahia at his finest

The great American pianist Murray Perahia is the subject of this month's Times CD Direct. Four of his best recordings will be offered at special prices

BERNARD LEVIN

Duane Daniels pleaded guilty to nine counts of various crimes and asked for other cases to be taken into consideration: approximately 600 burglaries, 220 cars broken into, and 130 muggings. Page 16

JOHN GRIGG

It is quite possible that Lord Blandford will be legally declared unfit to run an estate, yet still be treated as fit to sit in Parliament. Page 16

Jean Tellec, nuclear physicist;

Tim Sonster, composer; James Britton, educationist; Brenda Wootton, Cornish folk singer; Knut Haukelid, Norwegian-American "Hero of Telemark". Page 19

How accurate is the film portrayal

of Oskar Schindler? Page 17

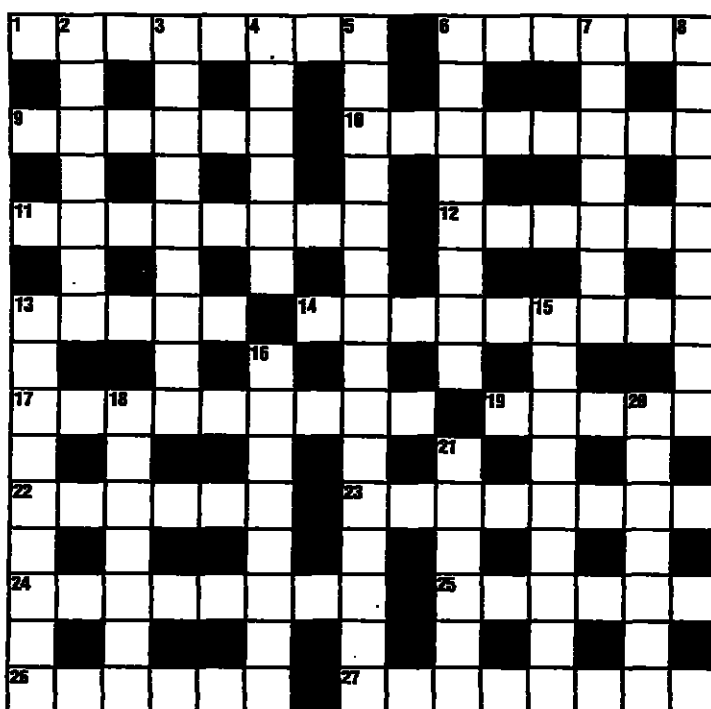
The *éminences grises* of the French

cultural elite are in a rather once again, resurrecting the veritable *bête noir* of the linguistic *métissage* of foreign *patois* with their precious mother tongue. Page 19

Under a new policy, US companies

could export satellite weapons around the globe. It will surely help spread spy-satellite technology to nations that we don't want to have it. Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,493



ACROSS

- Decided to be different (8).
- Provided backing since firm's ignominious failure (6).
- Take-off in a wind (6).
- Study with screen provides protection for pupils (3-5).
- Flower-girl — a beautiful young woman — beheaded (8).
- Pledge in the constitution (6).
- Indian city containing old market-place (5).
- The army keeps order — and sells weapons! (9).
- Peer unhappy about girl getting the whip as part of sentence (9).
- Some musicians play Elgar in retirement — wrongly! (5).
- Foreign money to exchange in Venice (6).
- Service airplane? No, quite the reverse (8).

DOWN

- Drink for mixed up teenager (5,3).
- Hitches up for success (6).
- Open this to get the password (6).
- Ordered worthless goods and took a chance about them (8).
- Making an exit from publishing (7).
- Highly rated interpretation of rare ducts (9).
- Receiving deliveries at home (3,3).
- The current state of affairs in the rest of the country (3,3,2,3,4).
- Presumptuous employee — a new comer (8).
- Justice, although superficial (7).
- A shot, very possibly premature (9).
- Article in The Guardian supporting snake as a delicacy (9).
- Argonaut's strange bark (9).
- A cricket club with eccentric dress (8).
- Classic art lover held up paintings (7).
- Make a count, perhaps? Fine, but after election ends (7).
- Put a Marxman, for example, in charge of the team (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,492

SPRING NOCTURNE
L E N O A A S U
P A S T M A S T E R H E R O
T I L I R E S
M O S Q U I T O Y A R N E D
U E N C R
E T N A L A L O P E G I A
G R A Y L I N E
L E A
B I R D I E L I N E S M A N
N H S L I S O
P A R O I C E B R E A K E R
T I D R E A P E R
D E L I V E R Y E S T A T E

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours

a day, dial 0801 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
East Angles	702
West Angles	703
South Angles	704
North Angles	705
West Midlands	706
East Midlands	707
West Midlands	708
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East Midlands	719
West Midlands	720
East Midlands	721
West Midlands	722
East Midlands	723
West Midlands	724
East Midlands	725
West Midlands	726
East Midlands	727

For the latest AA traffic and road-works information,

24 hours a day, dial 0330 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

Area within M25

East/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Barnet/On

West/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Barnet/On

London & SE traffic, roadworks

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways

West Country

West Country

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General: Over England and

Wales, a bright start in parts of the north and east but thick cloud with outbreaks of rain in the south west will extend east and north during the day.

The north east of England should remain mostly dry. Temperatures will be generally near average for the time of year with light or moderate winds.

Scotland will continue to be wintry, with heavy snow showers mainly in the west and north. Eastern Scotland should see the best of any sunshine.

Northern Ireland, after a bright start, will become increasingly cloudy and there will be a little patchy rain, though it will clear later. Winds will be lighter than recently.

London, SE England, East Angles, Central S England, Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, Wales: It will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Wind mainly southwest moderate. Max 10C (50F)

E England, NW England, Lake

District, Isle of Man, Central N England, NE England, Northern Ireland: Bright early. Cloud thickening with a little patchy rain at times. Wind mainly light with a variable direction. Max 8C (46F)

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: Windy periods and wintry showers. Wind mainly westerly moderate. Max 6C (43F)

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland: Snow showers, some heavy and prolonged. Wind will be mainly west moderate or fresh. Max 5C (41F)

Orkney, Shetland: Snow showers. Wind will be mainly easterly moderate. Max 5C (41F)

Outlook for the weekend: wintry showers continuing for a time in the north. Becoming fine in the south but rain later on Sunday.

These are Wednesday's figures

Midday: b=blunder; d=dribble; lg=long; sm=small; g=glacier; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; m=main; h=high; d=dark; g=gale; sh=shower; b=bright

Sun Rain in C F

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Changes to the chart below from noon: Low H will move northeast while

maintaining its central pressure. Low E will drift east. High V will remain in situ and maintain its central pressure

Worm front

Cold front

Ocluded front

Worm front

Cold front

Ocluded front

Worm front

Cold front

Ocluded front

INFOTECH 28-30

How good is Apple's new Power PC?

ARTS 31-33

Punk lives, as Rotten as it ever was

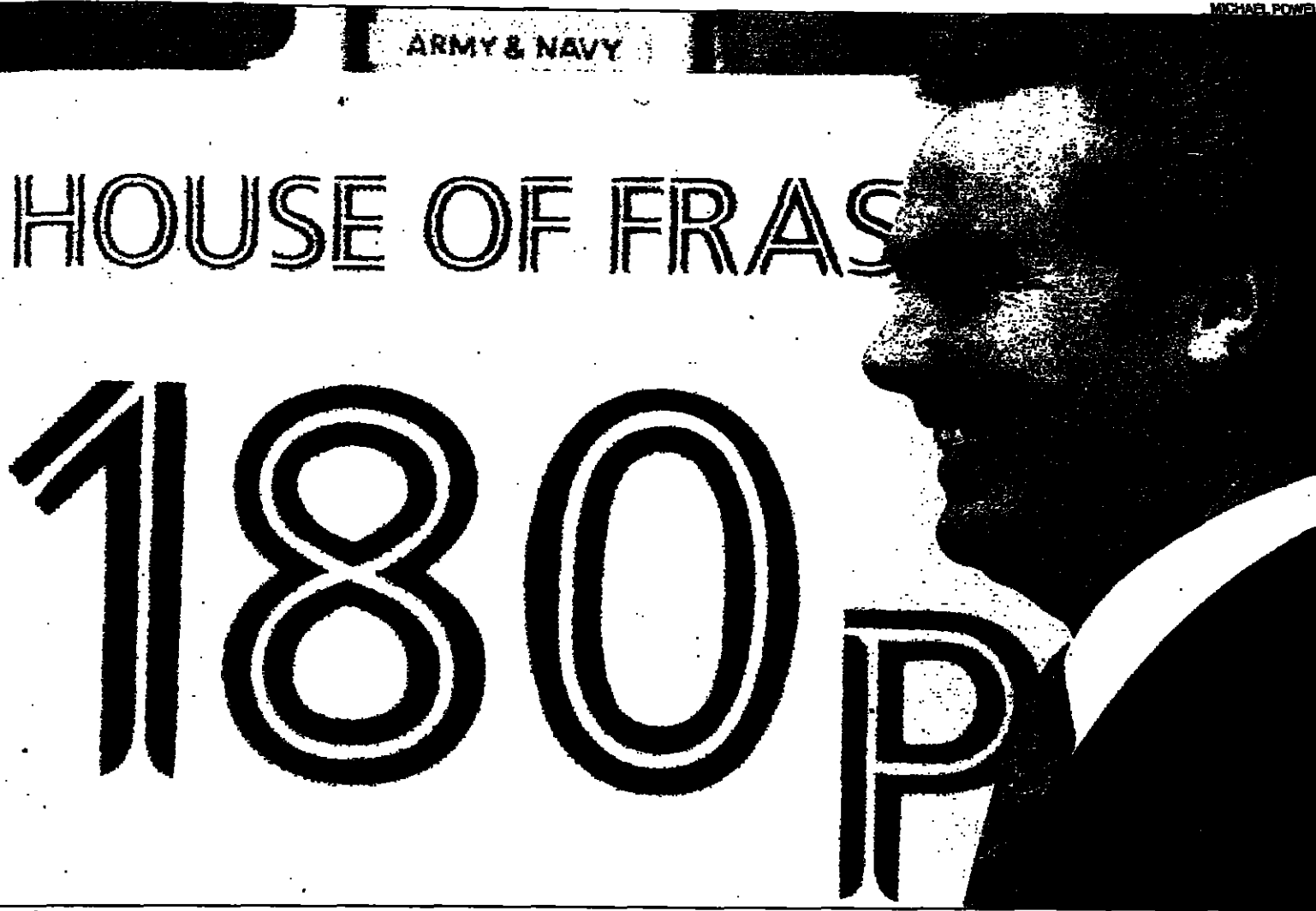
SPORT 35-40

England's leader of the pack in defiant mood

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Page 39

THE TIMES

FRIDAY MARCH 18 1994



Brian McGowan, chairman of House of Fraser, announcing the 180p share price outside Dickens & Jones in Regent Street, London, yesterday

Guinness serves up gloom and flatter figures

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

GUINNESS upset the stock market yesterday with a disappointing set of 1993 figures and a gloomy statement on the outlook for 1994.

Tony Greener, the chairman and chief executive, said at this stage in the year there was "no sign of generally improved market conditions compared with last year," although Guinness is expecting a modest profit improvement for 1994.

Pre-tax profits were £702 million, down from £795 million in 1992, but they were depressed by a £173 million one-off provision from the untangling of the group's cross-investment in LVMH, the French luxury goods firm, announced in January.

The provision had been made known to the market at the time, but analysts were surprised at the number of one-off gains that had helped Guinness reach 1993 profits estimates.

Guinness is raising its dividend, however, offering a final of 9.18p, increasing the total from 11.85p to 12.80p. Mr Greener said in a year of severe economic downturn in important markets, such as Japan, Spain and most of Europe, the actual underlying profits fell, disregarding currencies and other distorting factors, had been 1 per cent.

United Distillers, the spirits business, saw a 3 per cent fall, while Guinness Brewing Worldwide rose 1 per cent. Profits at Cruzcampo, the Spanish beermaker, fell from £41 million to £21 million.

The LVMH cross-holding should unravel by the Guinness annual meeting in May, Mr Greener said. Guinness is taking a direct holding in LVMH's brandy and champagne side.

The French business also announced 1993 figures yesterday, with a net profit of Fr 3.57 billion, a 19 per cent rise. But after stripping out exceptional profits, the result dipped to Fr2.97 billion last year, slightly down on the 1992 level.

Tempus, page 25

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS TODAY

STORM



L&G refused to reveal how much compensation will be paid out to customers who transferred into personal pensions
Page 22, Tempus 25

SPLASH

Read Elsevier, the publisher, is ready to splash out on more acquisitions in Europe and America
Page 23, Tempus 25

DRAIN



Rentokil expects to raise profit margins at Securigard, acquired last summer, despite a 35 per cent rise
Page 22, Tempus 25

DEPRESSION

Courtauld Textiles reckons the downturn on the continent of Europe will hinder progress this year
Page 23

Cash call by BMW will help Rover buy

By ROSS TIEMAN

BMW will launch a £300 million rights issue to help fund its £800 million acquisition of Rover Group, which is expected to be completed today.

The carmaker is taking advantage of German investors' warm response to the deal to strengthen its capital base. News of the one-for-11 issue accompanied confirmation of a 29 per cent dip in net earnings, to DM516 million, in 1993 (£204 million).

BMW is weathering the downturn in European car markets better than many of its rivals. Earnings from the core car manufacturing business and the German dealerships were only DM1 million down at DM452 million.

The company confirmed plans to propose a 9 per cent increase in the company's equity at its annual meeting on May 19. An increase in the nominal equity of DM82 million is designed to raise an additional DM800 million.

Analysts said that, with an estimated DM2.1 billion of net cash at the year end, the specialist carmaker had no need to raise the money to fund the purchase of Rover Group from British Aerospace.

The equity increase will, however, make it easier for BMW to cope with Rover's working capital fluctuations, as well as some £900 million of borrowings which will be assumed. According to BAE, Rover's debts could reach £2.7 billion during the build-up to the new registration year in August.

Exports down, page 22
Rover's new era, page 25

Open up regional airports, say MPs

By ROSS TIEMAN AND MARTIN FLETCHER

A CROSS-PARTY committee of MPs endorsed the Government's tough stand in talks on a new transatlantic air traffic agreement but said Britain's regional airports should be opened to any carrier that cared to use them. The call for flexibility, provided conditions are met, came despite the looming threat of a showdown between Britain and the US over renewal of the existing "Bermuda II" agreement.

Airline chiefs hope that Federico Pena, the US Transportation Secretary, will provide a breathing space for more talks by temporarily extending consent for a code-sharing arrangement between British Airways and USAir, its American associate.

The Transport select committee, chaired by Paul Channon, a former transport secretary, said renewed US approval for British Airways' plans to buy up to 40 per cent of USAir should be a prerequisite for any new deal. Mr

Airline bosses are hoping for breathing space to extend talks on code-sharing arrangements between British Airways and USAir, its American associate

Pena was expected to indicate last night whether he was prepared to extend the one-year temporary approval, which expired yesterday.

The outcome of the talks will have a crucial bearing on air links between Britain and the US. They are also central to efforts by both Britain and the US to liberalise air travel.

The committee declared that implementation of the 1991 code-sharing agreement, which enables BA and its American partner to link their services, "represents the status quo" and "cannot be bargained over during the present negotiations".

If the Americans were prepared to accept that position, "the UK government should offer an immediate deal, with no strings attached, involving total liberalisation of access to UK regional airports". However,

the MPs offered no solution to American demands for an increased allocation of scarce landing slots at Heathrow Airport, which have proved the main obstacle in negotiations. They simply urged the Government to "use best endeavours" to secure additional slots.

The MPs' conclusions were welcomed by BA, which said it would be happy to see more competition at regional airports, provided its code-sharing consent was maintained. Virgin Atlantic also approved the recommendations, provided it could receive a share of any additional takeoff and landing slots at Heathrow.

American Airlines and Delta, which have lobbied hardest for increased access to Heathrow, held fire pending Mr Pena's announcement. But United Airlines offered "broad support" to the committee's conclusions. "When you have an open skies regime, that means competition and we are used to that," it said.

An announcement from the Clinton administration on whether to extend BA's code-sharing arrangement with USAir was keenly awaited in Washington.

The administration appeared to have three broad choices: to end code-sharing, which would violate the present US-UK aviation agreement and provoke certain British retaliation against US airlines; to renounce the aviation agreement altogether, which would require a year's notice, during which the two governments could continue to negotiate; or to extend the code-sharing arrangement until BA's intentions towards USAir become clearer.

Almost 60 congressmen sent a letter to Mr Clinton this week urging him to take "the strongest possible US stand" against the "anti-competitive actions of the UK and BA". Mr Pena was widely believed to share their view.

Tempus, page 25

WH Smith to axe 600 jobs in store reshuffle

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

WHSMITH, one of Britain's biggest retail groups, is to make up to 600 staff redundant as part of an overhaul of management structures in its 500 core newsagents stores.

The move, which follows a 12-month internal review, will reduce the layers of store management from four to two, with the loss of about 950 jobs. The post of branch manager will remain, but the positions of deputy, assistant and departmental manager will be axed. These will be replaced by customer service managers as the new second tier. A non-management position of customer service leader will be created.

WH Smith says many of the 950 employees affected will be redeployed in the new positions, but it still expects about 600 redundancies, some compulsory. It also plans to recruit 400 part-time sales assistants, taking the proportion of part-time staff from 62 to more than 70 per cent.

The redundancies will cost about £6 million, but should produce annual savings of £2.4 million from 1995. Kevin Hawkins, corporate affairs director, says the changes are designed to improve service.

UB sets aside £110m for revamp

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

UNITED Biscuits, the McVitie's to KP food group, has been forced to make a £110m provision, primarily to cover the cost of a reorganisation of Keebler, its struggling American arm.

Some European operations will also be restructured, with the loss of about 500 jobs. Most among UB's 17,000 British staff. Eric Nicoli, chief executive, said the shake-up was essential to ensure a profitable future in highly competitive markets. The restructuring, to be implemented in the next three years, is expected to save £50 million annually by 1997.

The cost of the reorganisation hit pre-

tax profits, down from £161.8 million to £116.7 million in the year to January 1. Pre-tax profits before exceptional rose 6 per cent to £181.8 million (£170.7 million) thanks to acquisitions.

The overhaul of Keebler will account for £81 million of the £110 million provision. UB is to withdraw from the snacks market in about a third of the country to concentrate on regional strengths as well as simplifying the distribution system. Keebler has only 5 per cent of the \$9 billion national snack market, against PepsiCo's Frito Lay, the leading player with more than 40 per

cent. Signs of recovery are evident at Keebler: operating profits rose 39 per cent to \$63.7 million.

Profits fell in Britain on sharp increases in raw material costs and greater competition from manufacturers and retailers. Progress continued in continental Europe with profits, margins and market share ahead for the fourth consecutive year.

The final dividend is held at 9.8p, making an unchanged total for the year of 15.3p.

Tempus, page 25

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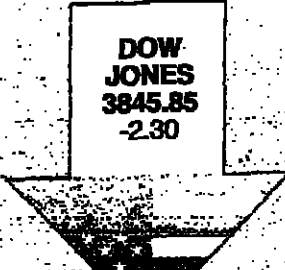
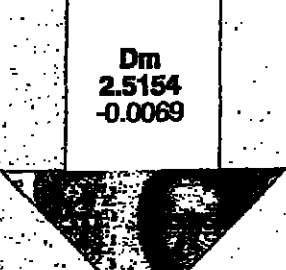
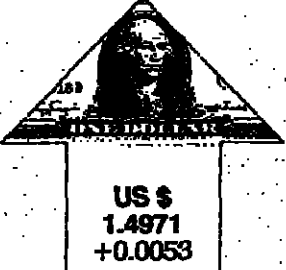
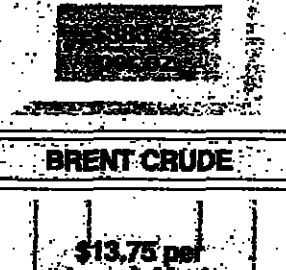
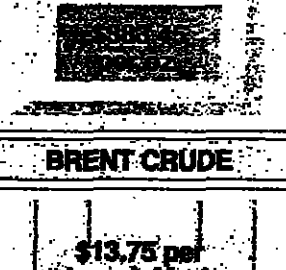
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 FT-SE 100 3255.7 +12.8	 DOW JONES 3845.85 -2.30	 Dm 2.5154 -0.0069	 US \$ 1.4971 +0.0053	 BRENT CRUDE \$13.75 per barrel (May)	 6pm

LONDON CLOSING PRICES

MARKETS IN DETAIL, PAGE 24, SHARE PRICES PAGE 27

Recession in Europe dents UK car exports

■ Car sales at home have been gaining ground and Ford says that if they continue at the current rate, they will reach an annualised total of two million

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN's exports of cars and commercial vehicles tumbled by more than 18 per cent in the first two months of the year as the recession on the Continent showed no sign of abating.

Figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders yesterday underlined the severe impact that the slump in overseas sales is having on British factories. However, production is being buoyed by the revival in the UK, softening the blow of lost sales abroad.

Overall car output in February rose by 2.73 per cent, to 114,121, but output for export was down by 10.22 per cent, to 44,188, year on year. The cumulative total for the first two months continued the falling export trend, with output for overseas markets

down by 18.66 per cent. The impact of the continental slump forced down total car output in the first two months by 2.42 per cent, to 220,218.

Commercial vehicles fared no better, though the revival in the home market is giving some cause for optimism. Sales of vans and lorries were 2.82 per cent down in January and February, to 36,048, but manufacturers had to absorb an 18.55 per cent drop, year on year, in export orders.

Roger King, the motor society's director of public affairs, said: "The figures continue to reflect the serious effect that the depleted European market is having on our domestic production."

The question facing manufacturers now is whether the UK can continue to recover and keep the worst effects of the recession abroad at bay. Carmakers expect only a token recovery in European sales this year.

Car sales have been gaining speed at home, culminating in a 14.75 per cent increase in registrations in February, an increase that encouraged Ford and Nissan to end short-time working at three UK plants. Ford says that if sales continue at the current rate, they will reach an annualised total of 2 million—the highest for three years.

However, the pain of lost exports continues. Vauxhall is losing ten shifts this month at its Luton plant, which makes the best-selling Cavalier model. The plant relied on exports for 40 per cent of its sales at the peak but has been unable to support record production levels during the European slump.

Rover's new era, page 25

Top mine to shed 320 jobs

BRITISH Coal is cutting 320 jobs at one of its 17 remaining collieries. The workforce at Harworth, Nottinghamshire, will be reduced from the present 870 but output will remain the same. One of Britain's best-producing pits, Harworth will also cut the 400 contract workers to a "minimal number".

The pit, which supplies power stations in the Trent Valley, recently broke its own production record, passing two million tonnes in the current financial year.

L&G to compensate for bad advice



LEGAL & General, the insurer, yesterday promised to compensate any customers found to have lost money because of advice to transfer into personal pensions (Sarah Bagnall writes). David Prosser, chief executive, said: "We have made prudent reserves for possible compensation for our customers who may have been badly advised on pension transfers and opt-outs." He refused to reveal the level of reserves.

The uncertainty surrounding the possible damage to insurers' profits due to mis-selling of pensions is undermining confidence in the sector. Analysts estimate the possible cost to the industry at £100 million to £1 billion, with L&G to be among the worst hit.

L&G yesterday unveiled results well ahead of market expectations and said it was considering floating its Australian life operation, which Roman Cizdyn at

Smith New Court, said could fetch up to £100 million. Pre-tax profits for the year to December 31 rose £64.9 million to £181 million. The total dividend is up 5.2 per cent to 20.1p, with a 13.6p final.

L&G also announced a £520 million increase in shareholders' interest in the UK Long Term Fund to £2.3 billion.

Tempus, page 25
City Diary, page 25

Minorco sees fall in pre-tax earnings

BY CARL MORTSHED

WEAK metal prices are keeping a lid on growth at Minorco, which transformed itself last September from a company owning mainly cash and shares into a group with mining and pulp and paper operations worldwide.

Pre-tax earnings fell from \$149.4 million to \$127 million in the six months to December 31, due in large part to lower interest income on the group's \$2 billion in cash.

Gold mining moved into profit due to increased production and an average realised price of \$390 per ounce, compared with \$353 in the previous year, but earnings from

base metals fell due to weak copper and zinc prices, which were down 13 and 14 per cent, respectively. The interim is being maintained at 19 cents.

Hank Slack, chief executive, said: "For the first time, operating earnings exceed financial income." Minorco still has \$800 million of net cash after spending \$150 million on acquisitions and \$123 million on development.

Mr Slack said: "This is a good time to make acquisitions as base metal prices are depressed, but we will not buy marginal operators. We want to be producers with costs in the lowest quartile."

Global advances spur Rentokil

BY MARTIN FLANAGAN

SHARPER performances in all business areas and geographical regions drove up yearly pre-tax profits by 35 per cent at Rentokil, the environmental services group.

The company also benefited from a £3.3 million profit contribution from Securiguard, the security group bought for £76 million last summer. Rentokil, whose other businesses range from pest control to tropical plant care, showed global advances, with profits up 56 per cent in the US and 42 per cent in Asia Pacific and Africa. Profits from healthcare, hygiene and hospital services rose to £55 million

(£42.3 million), while the pest control arm made £49.6 million (£40.8 million) helped by better trading in the UK.

Overall 1993 pre-tax profits of £147 million compared with a restated £108.4 million in 1992. Clive Thompson, chief executive, expects to beef up profit margins at Securiguard. But, he said, Rentokil had back-pedalled on bidding for privatised prison and prisoner escort work because it failed to meet company profit yardsticks. The total dividend is up 23.4 per cent to 2.85p via a 2.01p final.

Tempus, page 25

Travis Perkins buys builders' merchants

TRAVIS Perkins is expanding its network of builders' merchants by a quarter with the £41.8 million purchase of a business from AAH, to be funded entirely from its own cash and borrowing facilities. Tony Travis, the chairman, said AAH's builders' merchants chain, which has 46 outlets, was geographically complementary to the existing business and concentrated particularly in Scotland, the North, the Midlands and the southwest of England. Travis's existing 168 branches are mainly in the Midlands and the South East, and there are only about five areas where the two overlap.

Mr Travis said that trading margins at the AAH branches were running at about half the rate achieved by his company, and there was considerable scope for improvement as well as cost savings. Travis accompanied the acquisition with further signs of an improvement in the building materials sector, after good figures this week from Wolsley and Marley. On sales 15 per cent ahead to £348 million in 1993, pre-tax profits rose from £10 million to £20.5 million. A final dividend of 5.5p maintains the total at 8.0p.

Move for Wardley's

HSBC Holdings, Midland Bank's parent, is to combine its Hong Kong treasury and capital market operations with those of its Wardley merchant banking arm. The bulk of Wardley's investment banking operations will move to nearby space within the bank headquarters in Hong Kong's Central business district from the fourth quarter of this year. HSBC said the two arms of the bank will retain their separate legal identities, balance sheets and contractual relationships, but will conduct their capital markets and treasury operations under the umbrella of the group's HSBC Markets unit.

Dawsongroup record

SHARES in Dawsongroup, the truck and trailer rental company, fell 11p to 443p, despite pre-tax profits up 67 per cent to £7.9 million (£4.7 million). The company said it was "the excellent performance of the rentals division, which was the bedrock for the record group profit". Earnings per share rose from 10.4p to 17.3p and a final dividend of 3p makes a total of 4.5p, up 50 per cent from 3p. Peter Dawson is resigning as executive chairman to take up the position of chairman and managing director of the group's new Dutch-based holding company, Dawsongroup International BV. Tony Frendo becomes chairman in a non-executive capacity.

Attwoods down by half

ATTWOODS, the waste management company, is holding the interim dividend at 1.75p a share despite a drop in pre-tax profits to £8.97 million in the six months to January 31 from £19.32 million previously. Earnings were 5.27p a share, down from 1.97p. The group said comparative figures last year were flattered by £5 million of exchange gains, and \$19 million of extra business arising from damage caused by Hurricane Andrew in America. In addition, the first half of this year included a £2.7 million charge against legal fees relating to a US government probe into past billing practices at an American subsidiary.

Second GGT warning

SHARES in Gold Greenlee Trott, the advertising group, lost almost a fifth of their value in the wake of the second profit warning in six months, plunging 44p to 195p after the company gave warning of a dividend cut. GGT says pre-tax profits in the current year to April 30 will not exceed £3 million, and, in spite of £20 million of cash in the bank, the group will cut the dividend by 3p to 5.3p. In October, GGT warned investors about lower than expected profits from UK advertising and sales promotion. The group said that it had hoped some of this would be counter-balanced by a strong performance in the US, but that this would not now happen.

Trade Indemnity profit

BUSINESS failures worldwide fell sharply last year but sales failed to match expectations, according to Trade Indemnity, the insurer that covers companies against customers going bust. There were 6,303 business failures reported by TI's customers in 1993, a drop of 26 per cent on last year. Tony Brend, chairman, said: "This is very encouraging and we anticipate this improvement will continue throughout 1994, albeit at a slower rate." The fall in business failures helped TI return to profit after three years of losses, making £5.8 million (£4.9 million losses) in the year to December 31. A final dividend of 0.5p will be paid.

Davis pegs dividend

PROFITS from continuing businesses at Davis Service Group were static in 1993. But first-time contributions from acquisitions and the absence of provisions resulted in a 24 per cent rise. At the pre-tax level, profits rose to £21.8 million from £17.5 million in 1992, when a £1.5 million provision was charged against costs of closing the company's last motor vehicle franchise. Of the increase in profitability, £2.9 million was attributed to HSS Hire Service Group, acquired in May 1993. The dividend is held at 7.98p a share, with a final 5.25p. John Ivey, chief executive, said profits held firm despite the lack of a strong upturn in the company's markets.

CALA to raise £7.9m

CALA, the housebuilder and commercial property group, is raising £7.9 million through a rights issue of one new share for every five held at 16p each, to develop housebuilding interests in England and Scotland. Existing shares eased 4p to 138p. CALA also reported a return to profit for the six months to December 31, earning £340,000 before tax (£2.85 million losses). The interim dividend is 0.9p a share (0.75p) and a final dividend of not less than 1.8p, up 17 per cent, is expected. Geoff Ball, chairman, said there remained too many economic uncertainties to anticipate confidently a strong residential market with rising house prices.

Swire Pacific

"Solid results for 1993"

Highlights

Profit attributable to shareholders	US\$597M	+5%
Investment property portfolio	US\$7,203M	+44%
Net assets per share	US\$4.93	+33%
Earnings per share	US\$37.6¢	+5%
Dividends per share	US\$14.6¢	+11%

"Prospects. The overall outlook for the Swire Pacific Group for 1994 is good. The Property Division will again show strong growth in earnings. Cathay Pacific Airways expects 1994 to be a difficult year but other businesses within the Group should perform well."

P D A Sutch
Chairman, Swire Pacific Limited
Hong Kong, 14th March 1994

Notes:

- Amounts per share refer to "A" shares. Entitlements of "B" shareholders are in proportion 1 to 5 compared with those of "A" shareholders.
- Dividends are declared in Hong Kong dollars.

No change in German rates

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bundesbank left its discount and Lombard rates unchanged at 5.25 and 6.75 per cent respectively, and made no comment about intentions for the key repurchase rate after recent small cuts. There is no opportunity for the German central bank to cut rates until April 14, the next policy-making council meeting.

Alison Cottrell, international economist at Midland Global Markets, said the bank may wait until its April 28 meeting, when inflation may have fallen below 3 per cent.

The Chancellor yesterday published for the first time an annual remit for the Bank of England's operations in the gilt market, aimed at clarifying responsibilities between the Treasury and the Bank but not changing their roles. The Treasury said this was simply streamlining procedures.

However, a new inclusion is a published assumption for the amount expected to be raised from National Savings. In fiscal 1994-95, this is £3.5 billion. In the first 11 months of the current financial year, National Savings contributed £3.5 billion, against £4.3 billion in 1992-93.

Cookson and JM join forces

BY OUR CITY STAFF

COOKSON Group and Johnson Matthey are joining forces to build up their share of the expanding market in the Far East for ceramic materials. The combined assets of Johnson Matthey's colour and print division and Cookson's Supplies and Minerals businesses are to be injected into Cookson Matthey Ceramics, a new company, with turnover of about £230 million.

Cookson and Johnson Matthey will have equal shares in the joint venture. Richard Oster, Cookson's chief executive, will be chairman and Chris Clark, of Johnson Matthey, chief executive.

The combined net assets of Cookson Matthey Ceramics are expected to be between £160 million and £180 million. Combined profits, based on Cookson's December 1993 figures and Johnson Matthey's profits in the year to March 1993, will be about £22 million.

David Davies, chairman of Johnson Matthey, said that the main objective was for the venture to be large enough to compete more effectively in Asia and North America. The venture will invest about £50 million in new plant in the Far East over the next three years.

Aggressive campaign pays off at Kwik-Fit

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

A TIGHT control of costs and improved market share helped full-year profits at Kwik-Fit Holdings. Europe's largest automotive parts repair and replacement group, rise 49 per cent, despite demanding trading conditions.

An aggressive marketing campaign helped the Edinburgh group lift pre-tax profits to £25.4 million in the year to February 28, up from £17.1 million previously.

Organic growth and new centres helped sales grow 11.3 per cent to £260.1 million (£233.6 million). UK turnover saw 9 per cent like-for-like growth, while European turn-

over enjoyed a 19 per cent like-for-like advance.

Tom Farmer, chairman, attributed the group's success to the "aggressive" marketing campaigns, which included promotions on brake repairs and tyre replacements, plus a "Buy Now — Pay Later" scheme offering interest-free credit.

Mr Farmer said market share for Kwik-Fit's tyres had increased from 14 to 18 per cent since the campaign was launched in November.

The final dividend is raised to 2.3p (2p), for a total of 3.8p (3.35p). Earnings climbed to 10.39p (7.06p) a share.

CAIRN ENERGY (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.3m
EPS: 3.52p (3.03p)
Div: Nil (nil)

DANIELS (S) (Fin)
Pre-tax: £50,000
EPS: 0.6p (0.9p loss)
Div: 0.3p (0.25p)

EDMOND HOLDINGS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.89m loss
EPS: 3.1p loss
Div: 0.15p, mkg 0.3p

GREEN (E) & PARTNERS
Pre-tax: £207,000
EPS: 1.8p (2.8p)
Div: 2.75p (2.75p)

OLIVER GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £244,000
EPS: 1.49p (82.08p loss)
Div: Nil (nil)

ROSEBYS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.8m (£2.3m)
EPS: 9.6p (8p)
Div: 3.25p, mkg 4.65p

Profit in previous year was £18,000. Turnover rose to £18.2 million from £13.1 million. Net cash inflow up 46% to £9.5 million

Loss in previous year was £84,000. Board hopes to return to former levels of profitability through organic growth and acquisitions

Loss in previous year was £1.15 million, with losses per share of 1.5p. Dividend was 0.5p, with 0.15p final

Interim results. First half profit in previous year was £302,000. Order book is improving and group remains financially strong

Loss in previous year was £20.87 million. Turnover fell to £73.7 million from £82.13 million. Edt from non-core business completed

Dividend in previous year was 4.35p. Turnover rose to £48.8 million from £44.96 million. Patchy recovery seen in current trading

European hurts Arjo

□ Brewers face a volume hangover □ Water regulation everywhere □ Accountancy is more than a question of numbers

In search of heavy drinkers

FROM the big brewing barons is being heard the distinct sound of excuses being bottled and laid down for future consumption. Circumstances are making it more than usually difficult for industry observers to spot any return to high spirits in the beer market, but some signs are needed, and probably before Easter, if the industry is not to have to face another doleful round of job and capacity cuts.

Time was when beer consumption month by month was carefully tracked by those useful charts at the Brewers Society and published for all to see. The practice was discontinued at the start of 1993. The problem is that the numbers were prepared by adding production and imports and subtracting exports; but since the open market, no one is required to log movements around the EC any more.

So one must go on anecdotal evidence and what little information the brewers let slip. All the indications are that February, always a bad month for the beverage, was pretty awful. Christmas, when it arrived, arrived late, suggesting at best no improvement in volumes on the previous depressed year. January is a dead month, consumers metaphorically living off the rest of the Christmas sherry. February is normally little better, and the appalling countrywide

freeze-up last month will have done even more damage than usual to the pubs trade. March had better be an improvement. Industry insiders say there is as yet no pick-up in the off-trade, which is being savaged by the big high-street grocers, which have their own problems and are leaning in time-honoured style on their suppliers. Meanwhile, the classic no-food, no-frills booster in an unfashionable area is probably having to cope with volumes down 15 per cent even on last year.

At a rough estimate, beer consumption dropped 2½ per cent last year, and another couple of percentage-point falls can be expected for 1994. The big brewers, when put on the spot, shuffle their feet and mumble about having maybe 15 to 20 per cent excess capacity, a dead giveaway that in places the figure is twice that.

Now we learn that the prestigious Henley Centre for Forecasting has been hired by the association to assess the cost of the "booze cruise" across the Channel. Henley will have a look at how much bread is ripped

from the mouths of widows and orphans across the beer trade by this agreeable ritual.

Imported beer, we are told, accounts for 15 per cent of at-home consumption, itself a fifth of all volumes, so the Channel run is taking at most 3 per cent of the market. Meanwhile 10,000 excess pubs, at a guess, remain open while those brewers with retail estate wait for each other to make the first move.

That Henley study will no doubt prove useful should the brewers find themselves this summer short of an explanation for another lousy set of annual figures.

Finding the right formula for H₂O

ATTITUDES are hardening as the water industry gears up for Ofwat's fundamental review of price limits. Ofwat's Ian Byatt insists ever more strongly that prices should cover only legal requirements for quality improvements that cannot be eased and has warned companies with high and fast-rising



prices to expect the toughest test. The National Rivers Authority has accused Ofwat, among others, of exaggerating costs wildly to prepare the public for needless cuts in schemes to clean up rivers and beaches. Many suppliers complain that the regulator should not stop them making drinking water better in ways their customers have voted to pay for. Some big players hint privately that they will appeal to the Monopolies Commission if Mr Byatt cuts out too much financial comfort or bears too heavily on returns.

The pressure is also on Ofwat. As its own figures and yesterday's statistical tome from the Centre for the Study of Regulated Industries confirm, prices are

still rising fast and erratically in real terms and vary hugely. Most variations stem from geography and the burden of investment, but by no means all.

A few small water-only suppliers, for instance, look uneconomically small. Should customers pay for this historical accident, just to avoid some minor concentration in the industry? Indeed, why should they pay more to fund investment just because some suppliers have an inefficient financial structure and have to pay more for capital? These are luxuries in the battle to achieve the best water and environment for the lowest price.

When Mr Byatt fixes the new, lower assumed cost of capital, he should make it the same for all. That would be higher than some figures he has suggested, but that is all to the good. By limiting risk, he can curb prices more effectively by obliging companies to finance more investment, including those NRA schemes, by loans, rather than charging it straight to customers. Some of the former statutory water companies' prices have had to rise steeply just to cut loan gearing to

adjust to plc status. This did nothing for customers. Yet a couple of these independents operate quite safely with loan gearing at 100 per cent of shareholders' funds. If they can do it, so can the big privatised groups. Indeed, none needs to cover its peak interest bill more than twice, provided Mr Byatt allows a generous return on capital and does not bear down too hard on costs, which will be much harder to cut fast in real terms when inflation is low.

Questioning the urge to rationalise

KEN DUNCAN, president of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants, last night slung an embarrassing spanner into the latest effort to construct a unified accountancy profession in Britain, an establishment project that so recently received the backing of no less than the President of the Board of Trade. No doubt his intervention will be seen as predictable. He will be accused of being a Luddite or of special pleading for a ruling

body that governs one of the junior corners of accountancy and could expect to lose influence in a merger. But there is more to it than that. Mr Duncan claims to back unity even though the latest plans will not work. Yet his argument against unity is more convincing. There are positive benefits in having different organisations, if not all of the present six, plus outsiders. As he said: "There would be no virtue in a single monopolistic body per se. Indeed, there is considerable value in healthy competition. We have to be sure that any new structure would really be better than the current one."

The urge to rationalise is strong. One of its better motives is to speak with a stronger voice, funded by more concentrated resources. In Europe and internationally. That was the argument for merging engineering professions, but their influence had been weaker than accountants'. Rationalisation can be a synonym for monopoly. Competition to attract students is strong and has brought practical improvements to training. It has also enabled the profession to do more in training abroad, and help for the former Communist block, than a unified profession might have done. Rationalisers should demonstrate that they will be able to start more initiatives than they will stifle.

Confident Reed Elsevier hunts for acquisitions

BY NEIL BENNETT

REED Elsevier, the merged Anglo-Dutch publishing group, is searching in Europe and America for more legal and professional publishers to acquire, following its successful purchases of Official Airline Guides and Editions Techniques last year.

Pierre Vincken, the chairman, said Reed Elsevier had substantial resources for acquisitions since its merger. "Now we play in a bigger league," he said. The group spent £403 million buying more than 25 companies last year. The largest of these was Official Airline Guides, which the group bought from the administrators of the insolvent Maxwell Communication Corporation.

The acquisitions added £16 million to Reed Elsevier's profits in 1993, its first full year as a merged group. This, and strong organic growth, expanded pre-tax profits 30 per cent, to £534 million.

Earnings per share for Reed Elsevier, at 35.8p, were 17 per cent higher than in its last year as an independent company, while Elsevier's earnings increased 16 per cent, to 7.63 guilders (£2.70). Mr

Vincken said the similarity of the two increases proved that the terms of the merger had treated both sets of shareholders fairly.

Reed is increasing its full-year dividend 12 per cent, to 18.75p, but Elsevier shareholders receive a generous windfall since the company is almost doubling its payout to £15.19, to bring it into line with Reed.

Reed Elsevier also announced that it had appointed Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu International, the international arm of Touche Ross, as auditors to the merged group in place of Coopers & Lybrand, which audited Elsevier, and Price Waterhouse, Reed's auditor. The appointment of a combined auditor is one of the final stages of the merger.

The economic recovery in America and the first benefits of the merger enabled Reed Elsevier to shrug off the effects of the downturn in continental Europe, as well as a £19 million fall in its pension credit and a collapse in advertising revenue in the group's medical publications. Operating profits were

boosted by the fall in the value of the pound but would have risen 7 per cent without any benefit from currency movements.

The strongest performance in the group came from the professional publishing division, where profits rose 27 per cent, to £107 million. Butterworths, the legal publishers, improved its margins, and educational publishing showed underlying growth of 34 per cent.

The only weak performance in the group came from the consumer division, where profits fell in the American magazines business, although the continental newspapers offset lower advertising revenue by increasing their circulation.

Mr Vincken said that the merger was working well and was already close to achieving the £15 million in cost savings that the two companies had forecast. He said there were signs that the economic recovery in America and Britain was leading to improved group revenues in the current year.

Times, page 25

Courtaulds Textiles warning as continental losses hit profits

LOSSES in continental Europe depressed profits at Courtaulds Textiles, and the company said that the downturn would hinder progress again this year (Susan Gilchrist writes).

Noel Jervis, chief executive, said: "There's no doubt profits will be held back by Europe during 1994, although I hope we have now seen the worst."

Mr Jervis unveiled a fall in pre-tax profits from £39.1 million to £38.8 million for the year to December 31.

However, profits rose 11 per cent in the second half, largely offsetting the big drop in the first six months of the year. The bottom line was also adversely affected by a £3.5 million reduction in pension credit. Mr Jervis

said that recession in the group's main markets of Germany, France and Spain pushed continental Europe into a £900,000 loss against a profit of £5.1 million last time.

Profits in Britain rose to £33.1 million (£30.8 million), partly due to strong growth in exports, while recovery in North America boosted profits

to £8.4 million (£5.9 million). Mr Jervis ruled out further significant acquisitions in the current year after the purchase of Hartstone's hosiery division in January.

He said average gearing was running at about 60 per cent. A final dividend of 9.5p brings the total for the year to 14.2p (13.6p), a rise of 4 per cent.

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Cob Stenham, left, and Alain Soulas, chief executive

European weakness hurts Arjo Wiggins

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

OVERCAPACITY, weak demand and price erosion in European markets combined with exceptional restructuring costs to drive full-year profits at Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the Anglo-French paper group, 24 per cent lower.

An improved performance in the latter part of the year limited the fall in pre-tax profits to £122.1 million (£161.1 million) in the year to December 31.

The slide in profits was exacerbated by a £13.7 million exceptional restructuring charge for programmes in Germany and Spain.

There is a maintained final dividend of 3.8p, giving an unchanged total of 6.5p for the year. Earnings fell to 7.5p (11.6p) a share. Year-end gear-

ing stood at 25.7 per cent (23.6 per cent).

Cob Stenham, chairman, said: "Continued growth is expected in the UK and US markets, together with a slower return to economic growth in continental Europe."

Operating profits from North American paper manufacturing increased by 5 per cent to £143.5 million, but profits from European paper manufacturing tumbled by 37 per cent to £44.7 million. Spain and Portugal suffered combined losses in the region of £20 million.

The future looks brighter after recent increases in paper prices, though continuing overcapacity in some areas will restrict profit recovery prospects this year.

Provisions boost for Midshires

Birmingham Midshires, the 13th-largest building society, increased pre-tax profits 66 per cent to £39.7 million in 1993. This was partly helped by a £14 million fall in provisions for bad debts to £22.3 million. The society said its arrears were 33 per cent below the industry average, with 23 per cent of total mortgages in arrears. The number of repossessions was 513, 40 per cent lower than in 1992 and the lowest since 1989.

Gross mortgage advances were up to £726.3 million from £435.8 million in 1992. Net inflows of retail savings totalled £251 million.

Haden rights

Haden MacLellan, the engineering group, launched a one-for-four rights issue at 62p a share to raise £13 million. Existing shares fell 2p to 78p. Haden also announced 1993 taxable profits of £4.5 million (£4.3 million). Earnings per share were 3.5p (2.6p). The total dividend is maintained at 2p a share via a 1p final.

BBP up 14%

Gas from the Gulf of Mexico helped British Borneo Petroleum raise net profits 14 per cent to £8.7 million in 1993. Production rose 43 per cent to 7,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day. The dividend is 7.1p.

Baynes ahead

Charles Baynes, the engineering and packaging distribution company, raised pre-tax profits to £8.2 million in 1993 (£5.2 million). Earnings per share rose 33 per cent to 3.71p, and a final dividend of 1.075p makes a total of 1.65p (1.425p).

to raise £7.9m

...to raise £7.9m

ANY NEWS IN BRIEF

...any news in brief

Lack of action on German rates subdues shares

THE decisions by the French and Germans to peg interest rates left share prices trading below their best of the day.

The FT-SE 100 index, up 20 points earlier in the day, eventually settled 128 points higher at 3,255.7 in spite of another uncertain start to trading on Wall Street.

Trading conditions remained thin, with attention distracted by the Gold Cup at Cheltenham. By the close, only 659 million shares had changed hands and much of that could be accounted for by bed and breakfast transactions before the financial year end.

Brokers are forecasting an unsettled start to trading today as they unwind positions before the expiry of the March series of FT-SE 100 index traded options. Schroders

STOCK MARKET

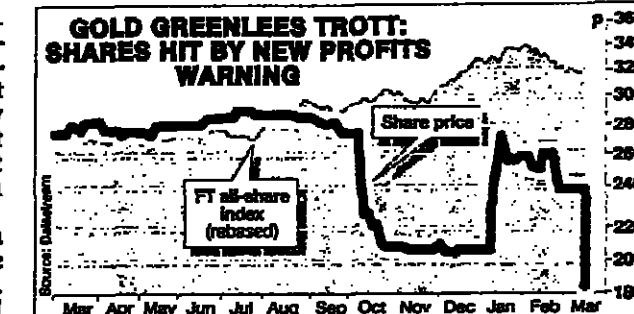
continued to respond positively to this week's better than expected figures with a rise of 58p to £12.28, a rise of 138p in the past two days. Unfortunately, the performance of the shares has come too late to prevent Schroders from losing its position as a constituent of the top 100 companies.

Learmonth & Burchett Management Systems fell 44p to 96p after saying that profits in the current year to April 30, would fall from expectations. Gold Greenlees Troit, the advertising agency, also dropped 55p to 184p after issuing its second profits warning in six months and a

proposal to cut the dividend. First-time dealings in Midland Independent Newspapers got off to a confident start after the issue was heavily oversubscribed. Offered at 140p, the shares opened at 163p before ending at 172p, a premium of 32p.

Waste Recycling enjoyed a healthy premium in first-time trading after a placing at 50p. The price opened at 68p and rose to 72p before ending at 71p, a premium of 21p.

Applied Distribution made a cautious start in its market debut opening at the price of 135p. After briefly touching 142p, it settled at 140p, a premium of 5p.



were favourable. Guinness fell 17p to 485p having realised earlier fears by reporting a drop in pre-tax profits last year from £920 million to £875 million before exceptional items. Reed International fell 25p to 880p after a cautious statement on current trading conditions. Pre-tax profits grew

last year from £435 million to £518 million after the merger with Elsevier. Better than expected trading news added 6p to Courtalds Textiles at 569p and 5p to Kwik Fit Holdings at 165p. Positive trading news and details of a £42 million acquisition from AAH lifted Travis Perkins 3p to 367p. AAH

firmed 6p to 493p. United Biscuits hardened 8p to 345p in spite of news of provisions of £110 million that left pre-tax profits last year down from £163 million to £116.7 million. GILT-EDGED: Gilts lost an early lead, disappointed by the Bundesbank's decision not to cut rates. Prices later perked-up helped by the March business survey from the Philadelphia Fed before running into profit-taking to end lower on the day.

The June series of the long gilt shed 1/8% to £110 1/8% as 73,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 dropped 1/8% to £114 1/8%, while at the shorter end, Treasury 9 1/2 per cent eased 1/8% to £110 1/8%.

MICHAEL CLARK

MARKETS AT A GLANCE

THE POUND
US \$ 1.4971 (+0.0053)
German mark 2.5154 (+0.0069)
Exchange index 80.5 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET
FT-SE 100 3255.7 (+12.8)
Dow Jones 3845.85 (+2.30)
Nikkei 2592.16 (+8.61)

INTEREST RATES
London Bank Base 5 1/4%
3-month Interbank 5 1/4%
US Federal Funds 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 3.50-3.49%
Long Bond 6.82%

CURRENCIES
New York: London: £1.4945
S.D.M. 1.4844 S.D.M. 2.5183
S.S.W. 1.4330 S.S.W. 2.1498
S.F.R. 5.7388 S.F.R. 8.5770
S.Yen 105.75 S.Yen 158.04
S.S.P. 1.0384 S.S.P. 1.3399
London Foreign market close

GOLD
London Fixing (5):
AM 383.00 PM 383.40
Close 383.20-383.70
New York:
Comex 383.75-384.25

RETAIL PRICES
RPI, 141.3 Jan (2.5%) Jan 1987=100
* Denotes midday trading price

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank
Buy	Sell	Buy
Australia \$	2.23	2.03
Austria Sch	13.89	17.19
Belgium Fr	52.07	50.81
Canada \$	2.1446	1.986
Cyprus Cyp	0.730	0.740
Denmark Kr	10.46	9.65
Finland Mk	8.89	8.09
France Fr	6.52	6.32
Germany DM	2.46	2.26
Greece Dr	385.00	360.00
Hong Kong \$	12.19	11.19
India Ru	55.07	50.81
Italy Lira	258.00	243.00
Japan Yen	173.00	168.00
Malta Lm	0.627	0.617
Netherlands Gld	2.078	2.048
Norway Kr	27.00	26.00
Portugal Esc	207.50	202.50
S. Africa R	5.30	5.00
Spain Ptas	214.00	204.00
Sweden Kr	12.28	11.28
Switzerland Fr	2.27	2.07
Turkey Lira	325.00	300.00
USA \$	1.491	1.481

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.

House of Fraser price set at 180p

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST AND PHILIP PANGALOS

HOUSE of Fraser has priced shares in next month's flotation at 180p, significantly lower than City expectations. The price values the department store group at £413.3 million, compared with the £500 million price tag suggested when the flotation was announced earlier this year.

At 180p, the shares are on an historic price earnings multiple of 16.2 times, a discount to both the market and the stores sector. The Fayed brothers, who own Harrods, are selling all of their 22.9 million shares in the group, which operates 56 stores including Debenhams & Jones, DH Evans and Army & Navy. Three quarters of the shares have been placed with institutions and the remainder are open to the public.

Applications have to be in by 10am on March 25 and dealings are expected to start on April 6.

Meanwhile, shares in Inspect Group, the Southampton-based speciality chemicals company which used to be part of BP, will be priced at 160p each, capitalising the group at £136.4 million when it floats on the stock market this month. Inspect, which was formed through a £40 million management buy-out from BP in July 1992, will raise about £49.5 million from the float, with about £35.2 million of new money.

At the offer price, the shares will trade on a pro forma historic earnings multiple of 18.4 times, with a notional dividend yield of 2.7 per cent. Dealings are expected to begin on March 30.

Shares in the placing and intermediaries offer for Nottingham Group Holdings, the supplier of equipment and materials for schools, have been priced at 155p each, capitalising the group at £81.4 million. About 16.1 million of the 24.5 million shares available will be placed with institutions. Goldman Sachs International is sponsor to the issue, with James Capel and Goldman Sachs Equities Securities the joint brokers. The company will receive net proceeds of £13.6 million.

Share	Price	Share	Price
House of Fraser	180p	Inspect	160p
Nottingham Group	155p	Gold Greenlees Troit	184p
Waste Recycling	71p	Reed International	880p
Applied Distribution	140p	Guinness	485p
Travis Perkins	367p	United Biscuits	345p

Closing Prices Page 27

Volatility before triple witching expirations today kept Wall Street shares on the downside at midday. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 23 points at 3,845.85. Declining issues led advancing shares by ten to nine. US treasuries were mixed, with the long bond down 1/8%. Oil shares, some cyclical shares and selected high-technology shares were firm, but analysts said that most investors were on the sidelines. Michael Metz, market strategist at Oppenheimer & Co., said: "It's still a nervous market without any clear direction."

Share	Price	Share	Price
AMP Inc	59 1/2	Bank of America	29 1/2
Amgen	52 1/2	Boeing	40 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Chrysler	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Citigroup	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Comcast	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Conoco	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Cummins	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Dynegy	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Eastman	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Exxon	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	General Electric	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Goldman Sachs	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	IBM	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Johnson & Johnson	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Merck	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Micron	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Motorola	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Norfolk Southern	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Oracle	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	PepsiCo	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Procter & Gamble	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Qualcomm	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Schlumberger	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Spacelabs	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Texas Instruments	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	United Technologies	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Veritas	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Wendell	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	WorldCom	24 1/2
Amstar	42 1/2	Xerox	24 1/2

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Saracen Value 100	95	...	Dillard Dept's	34 1/2	33 1/2	MY Times
Saracen Value Writs	98	...	Disney (Walt)	40 1/2	40 1/2	Seaworld
Saracen Value Virts	93	...	Douglas Res	37 1/2	37 1/2	Starbucks
Schroder US Growth	201	...	Dow Chemical	30 1/2	30 1/2	US Indus
Trifund 200	908	...	Dover Corp	64 1/2	64 1/2	Northeast
Tring Intl (118)	129	...	Dow Jones	41 1/2	41 1/2	Norfolk Sth
United Carriers (153)	178	...	Duke Power	38 1/2	38 1/2	Norwest Can
Waste Recycling (51)	58	...	Duke Resources	60 1/2	60 1/2	Novartis
			Du Pont	50 1/2	50 1/2	Pharmacia
			Eastman Kodak	45 1/2	45 1/2	Ohio Edison

BMW turns the ignition on a new era for Rover

Kevin Eason says Rover is looking forward to the sort of independence it could never have achieved under BAE, even with Honda as a partner



Bernd Pischetsrieder, right, and BAE's Dick Evans are due to close deal

They looked the perfect picture of togetherness, striding purposefully between the shiny, new cars. George Simpson, Rover's chairman, and Bernd Pischetsrieder, BMW's chairman, were heading for the Rover stand at the Geneva Motor Show, clearly with much to discuss before the impending marriage between their two companies.

Both beamed and waved greetings as eyes swivelled to follow them. If there was any tension in the lead-up to the formal tying of the knot, they were not showing it. But when any long relationship breaks down, there is always one partner that suffers the hurt and humiliation. On the other side of the show, Honda was receiving a regular stream of visitors to hear the sorry tale of a partner who walked out on a good marriage. Like the image of a wronged wife who pours out her troubles to the neighbours over a cup of tea, Honda executives were only too anxious to let anyone who would listen know that they were the distraught partner left behind by Rover executives wooed by starchy promises.

There will be no going back, no reconciliations or last-minute patching-up of differences. The deal in which British Aerospace sells its 80 per cent share of Rover to BMW for £800 million should be complete today. That means the link with Honda is severed for good. The only question now is how the sides complete the divorce and who gets to keep the furniture. As one analyst in Geneva put it: "They are like an old married couple trying to decide who gets custody of the Beatles albums and how much the maintenance payments will be."

The sale of Britain's last volume manufacturer to BMW was bound to provoke an outcry but the truth is that Rover was virtually tied to Honda's apron strings. The biggest question over the sale is whether Rover will benefit or not, and the excitement among the company's executives at Geneva told its own story.

If Herr Pischetsrieder and his board stick to their early promises, Rover faces the prospect of a period of expansion and independence it could never have managed as a subsidiary of BAE, and even with Honda as a partner.

Rover is already enjoying the "halo" effect just from the announcement of its sale to BMW. Sales in Germany, where Rover was virtually unknown, are soaring, with dealers reporting their showrooms busier during February than at any time in the previous year. That was reflected in February sales of Rover cars, up 48 per cent to 690 year-on-year, and Land Rovers, up 55 per cent to 225. That should be just the start. Already 250 BMW dealers have asked for a Rover franchise, and they will be needed if Herr Pischetsrieder's assertion that sales in Germany could jump very quickly, from 12,000 last year to 100,000 annually.

The BMW chairman's optimism has been enough to entice Rover executives who suddenly realise they could soon have the freedom to build a generation of truly British cars. They would be cars with Rover engines, Rover technology and Rover designs. That could mean jobs for hundreds more designers and engineers, with Herr Pischetsrieder apparently ready to

plough £800 million into Rover within 18 months — a level of investment unheard of in Rover's factories.

Herr Pischetsrieder has no doubt that the British manufacturer has to thrive independently of its parent and stresses that he did not buy Rover to add factory capacity to build BMWs.

"If you run a Scottish distillery and buy a French Cognac company," he said, "you do not start making whisky in France. We want to build British cars in Britain. Perhaps Rover cars were becoming too Japanese."

Rover gained a lot from Honda over 15 years — possibly too much, for the range for evidence: only the nearly defunct Maestro and Montego models, the 35-year-old Mini and the outdated Metro are completely British-designed and engineered from the wheels up. The rest — the successful Rover 200/400 series, the new 600 and executive 800 — are all models designed by Honda and effectively made under licence by Rover. Honda also supplies 1.6-litre and 2.7-litre engines to Rover as well as gearboxes.

The biggest fear of takeover by a foreign parent is that when the crunch comes, the British satellite plant is first to suffer. Yet Honda — the company that wanted a strong, independent Rover — is apparently threatening to damage its former partner by raising the price of manufacturing licences in a fit of pique that smacks of the vengeful wife.

The licences and engine supply contracts are already worth £400 million a year to Honda. The idea that

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BMW could suddenly step into the breach with new engines is out of the question. Rover needs Honda in the short term and if the Japanese put up the price of their manufacturing licences, then the cost could be enormous.

Does Honda really want a bitter separation? Taking revenge could force a petty tit-for-tat battle that benefits neither side and has potential for much harm to both.

Honda gets discount on parts for the Accord cars that it manufactures at its UK manufacturing base at Swindon because components are also standard to the Accord's Rover twin, the 600 series.

Rover's £2.5 billion worth of buying power on components to make 410,000 cars a year ensures Honda gets its parts cheaper than if it was buying for Swindon alone, a plant turning out just 50,000 cars annually.

Rover also makes all the body pressings for Honda's Swindon-built Accords. Going it alone would mean Honda investing about £100 million and at least a year building a new pressings plant, unless it could buy one "off the shelf".

BMW and Rover are hoping that the public fury will have subsided into Japanese common sense by the time talks between the two sides are at their most intense around Easter.

Honda will relinquish its 20 per cent to BMW as a public act of separation, but also has to decide whether it is worth taking revenge on Rover and risking the disapproval of a car-buying public which, so far and somewhat surprisingly, has been on the side of the Japanese company.

The fact that Rover is going through such a messy divorce proves to many that a future beholden to Honda technology was not the ideal way forward. Instead, Herr Pischetsrieder and John Towers, Rover's managing director, will today start planning the cars that take Rover into the next century, and, if anything, BMW has been willing to subjugate its own plans to allow Rover to expand.

BMW has abandoned plans for a "mini" city car and a four-wheel drive vehicle. Instead, Rover will develop a successor to the evergreen Mini designed by Sir Alec Issigonis, Herr Pischetsrieder's uncle, and launch a new car, the Rover 100, as replacement for the Metro before the end of the century.

Rover expects Honda to stick to its contract to allow manufacture of the new generation 200 and 400 series, developed jointly as the new Honda Concerto, which Honda will make at Swindon, and should be launched in early 1995.

The 600 will stay as a model to attract British fleet buyers, while the 800 executive model, due for replacement in 1996, could be the first to show BMW links... and could even carry one of the badges Herr Pischetsrieder is anxious to revive. Badged as a Riley, the 800 would use an all-Rover 2.5-litre V6 derivative of the its own K-series engine, instead of the Honda V6 as at present, and introduce BMW's acclaimed 2.5-litre turbo-charged diesel. The car could be ready by 1996, although Rover is not confirming that.

Land Rover is set to expand to annual production rates of 100,000 vehicles a year — up from just 68,000 in 1990 — and will spearhead a return to the United States for Rover Cars, probably towards the end of the century.

Herr Pischetsrieder is also enthusiastic about the launch of an all-new MG, due next spring, which will be the first production car made entirely by Rover, independently of Honda, since the Montego ten years ago. It will be the first offspring of the new Rover marriage to BMW... but surely not the last if the relationship thrives.

TEMPUS

Scotch on the rocks

ANY doubts that Guinness is a marketing-led company were dispelled by its chairman's proclamation of an all-out advertising offensive to tempt people back to the whisky bottle. The group is effectively recycling the cash it saves from hard-won operating efficiencies into its marketing budget in an effort to kick-start the world's drinking habits. Such an initiative carries all kinds of risks. It sacrifices the certain earnings generated from cost saving in the assumption that scotch drinkers will trade up, at a time when consumers are turning their backs on expensive brands.

But Guinness may feel it has no choice but to take the initiative to halt the steady decline of the dark spirit market in the developed world. The recession has robbed the group of the double digit price increases it regularly achieved in the eighties. Without some hope of

volume improvements or trading up, the group's earnings outlook is unenviably flat. That is certain in the short-term. Tony Greener's downward economic outlook, and the 4 per cent earnings dilution caused by the asset reshuffle with LVMH, is likely to cause a further fall in earnings this year. After that, Guinness's claims about the strength of its brand portfolio will face their sternest test. At that point, the group could do without such distractions as the disaster in Spanish brewing. It could also do with greater depth of management. The managing director's chair at United Distillers is still vacant and any chance that Tony Greener will split his chairman and chief executive roles looks remote. Until Guinness can show tangible benefits from its media blitz, investors are likely to remain on the wagon.

Utd Biscuits

THE City may feel relieved that United Biscuits has addressed the perennial under-performance at Keebler, but there is a distinct sense of déjà vu in the whole affair. UB's management has annually promised action at Keebler so it is hard to believe it can achieve the improvements it claims.

The action it is taking is hard to fault. With a 3.8 per cent market share, Keebler's salty snack business is not supportable as a national business and must concentrate on a handful of more promising regions. The cost of Keebler's distribution network is exorbitant and long overdue for an overhaul.

However laudable these initiatives, UB would be more realistic if it admitted it was outclassed in the US market and sold Keebler. But its

Reed Elsevier

FEW mergers demonstrate their benefits as rapidly as Reed Elsevier. The power of the combined group's cash generation is already paying enormous dividends — in more senses than one. Not only have Elsevier's shareholders seen their income double but the group's cash flow paid for more than half the £403 million it spent on acquisitions last year.

The diversity of the group also allowed it to ride out a series of mishaps in its various operations. The 50 per cent fall in profits from medical publications failed to prevent a 2 per cent underlying increase in profits from the scientific division.

A rise in advertising revenue and a full contribution from the Official Airline Guides should enhance earnings further this year and there will be further acquisitions. There are hints that Reed is looking at a sizeable professional publisher in the US. As the portfolio of specialist publications grows, there may also be some pruning. Reed's consumer division is looking

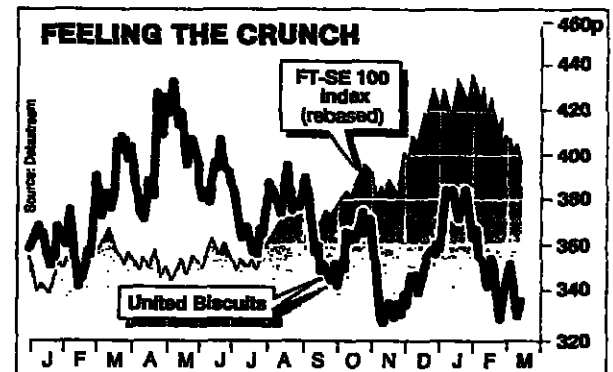
Rentokil

CLIVE Thompson, chief executive of Rentokil, was only half joking yesterday when he suggested the group's new security division would benefit from a change of name to the world-renowned pest control brand. If the name makes any contribution to the group's astonishing earnings record, the company could do worse than sew new labels on hundreds of Securiguards uniforms.

As it stands, the business will need a lot of work to bring it up to scratch. Manned security contributed £36 million of revenue to Rentokil in 1993 but only £1.8

Legal & General

IT IS hard to spot signs of impending doom in Legal & General's figures. Whatever the eventual cost of compensation for personal pension transfers, it is hard to believe it will be worse than the vicissitudes the group has suffered from general insurance in recent years. Now the profitability of L&G's life business is finally reaching the bottom line, the group could do without the bad publicity with which the life industry is being bombarded.



Beware Barclays 'propaganda'

From Mr Barty Hotchkiss Sir, I note with great interest that you are running an advertisement (March 17) sponsored by Barclays Bank Plc headed "Starting a business this year?" and inviting prospective young entrepreneurs to go with them.

I run a small company and we used to bank with Barclays Mayfair branch but we no longer do so even though the reason for the breakdown of our arrangements, the supposed demise of the business, failed to happen.

This company is still trading profitably. We have new bankers. We recently bought another small company. That one does not bank with Barclays either.

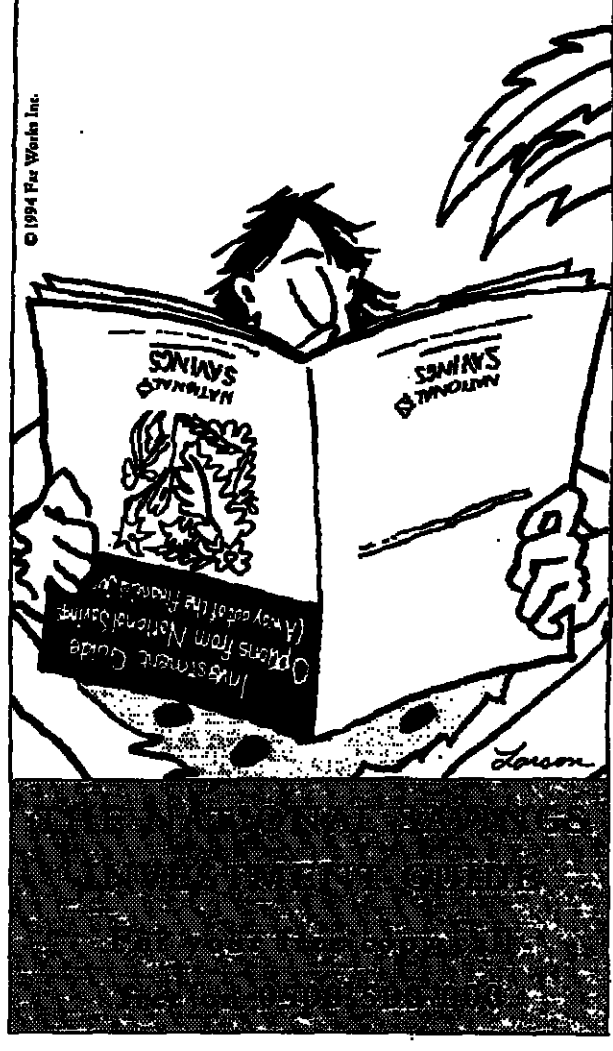
This is a sad story really, because my father introduced me to banking in 1959 when he opened an account for me with Martins bank. I have banked continuously with Barclays since they took over Martins. I believe it was in 1964, until May 1993.

I see Pauline Woodhouse is quoted in the advertisement as having experience with Barclays since 1990. I would invite her and all the other young men and women who have "established there's a market for your business idea", to talk to me. I will not charge a penny and I might save them considerable agony.

The British economy needs these young people for the future. Do not let them fall foul of propaganda. Let's get the bankers' role in perspective. Yours faithfully, BARTY HOTCHKISS, Chairman, W. Green Son & Waite Ltd., Chalk Pit Avenue, Orpington, Kent.

How to survive in the financial jungle.

TM0082



THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Royal command for Bishko

ROY Bishko, irrepressible chairman and founder of The Rack, may be on his way to a knighthood, if word filtering in from Paris is anything to go by. Bishko, in France to see how his shops are doing before the company's full-year results, out next month, was at the newly opened Le Carrousel du Louvre shopping centre on Wednesday — hailed as the new heart of the Parisian fashion scene — when he encountered none other than the Prince of Wales, who had flown in to open a new wing at the museum, following in the footsteps of his wife and children. Not only did the Prince pause to enter his shop — Bishko's 300th, as it happens — but was, I hear, very taken with The Rack's collection of Royal Academy replicas, which draw on the work of Kandinsky, Matisse and others. He was equally delighted to spot a tie featuring a polo team at full tilt — so much so that Bishko insisted he take it with him. "He spent six minutes with the Prince in all," says a London source. "The shares were unchanged on the news."

AMINEX, an oil exploration and production company, has appointed a senior Russian official to its board of directors — thought to be the first instance of its kind. Oleg Popov, a respected figure in the Russian oil industry, takes up a non-executive position.

Fax unlimited

LEGAL & General used the opportunity of yesterday's results to test out its new Mercury Surefax service, which allows it to send the same fax simultaneously to 30 destinations. Unfortunately — and through no fault of Mercury's

— the L&G machine went haywire, spewing out page after page of illegible figures and clogging up newsroom faxes across the UK for half an hour at a time. Our own copy would easily stretch round the building. "I'm looking forward to getting a new fax machine," says John Morgan, L&G's chief press officer.

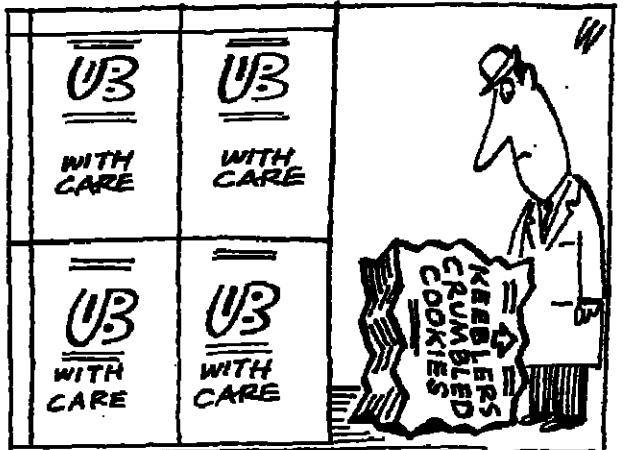
Colombia bound

KEN Foreman's Attwoods, the waste management group where until recently Sir Denis Thatcher was non-executive deputy chairman, says a touchstone for setting up inter-

national business bridgeheads is political stability. Slight bewilderment then yesterday, to find one of its latest ventures is in Colombia. The same Colombia of the big bucks cocaine industry, political kidnappings, technicolour bloodletting and general South American pyrotechnics? Still user-friendly to business, says Foreman. "Strangely enough, Colombia has the second best economy in South America," he chirps. "There is no restriction on investment. You can take money in, take money out. Inflation is under 10 per cent. There are certain areas of Colombia you don't want to go in to, but the main cities are OK." Good to know.

Multilingual

FUN and games at the Sir Peter Parker Awards For Spoken Business Japanese in London on Wednesday night, which saw a fair smattering of City talent put to the test. And all credit to Samantha Carr of Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, who won second prize in her category with a speech on mergers and acquisitions — and in Japanese, to boot. Jason Bowers, of BZW, and Karen Throsby, of the Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund, also made it



THE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 18 1904

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Modest gains in thin trading

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 14. Dealings end March 25. Settlement day March 28. Settlement day April 5. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is redivided. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	+0.10	4.50	10.0
98.50	97.50	Bank of Montreal	98.50	+0.05	4.20	11.0
97.00	96.00	Bank of New York	97.00	+0.05	4.00	12.0
95.50	94.50	Bank of Toronto	95.50	+0.05	3.80	13.0
94.00	93.00	Bank of the North	94.00	+0.05	3.60	14.0
92.50	91.50	Bank of the West	92.50	+0.05	3.40	15.0
91.00	90.00	Bank of the South	91.00	+0.05	3.20	16.0
89.50	88.50	Bank of the East	89.50	+0.05	3.00	17.0
88.00	87.00	Bank of the Middle	88.00	+0.05	2.80	18.0
86.50	85.50	Bank of the North	86.50	+0.05	2.60	19.0
85.00	84.00	Bank of the South	85.00	+0.05	2.40	20.0
83.50	82.50	Bank of the East	83.50	+0.05	2.20	21.0
82.00	81.00	Bank of the Middle	82.00	+0.05	2.00	22.0
80.50	79.50	Bank of the North	80.50	+0.05	1.80	23.0
79.00	78.00	Bank of the South	79.00	+0.05	1.60	24.0
77.50	76.50	Bank of the East	77.50	+0.05	1.40	25.0
76.00	75.00	Bank of the Middle	76.00	+0.05	1.20	26.0
74.50	73.50	Bank of the North	74.50	+0.05	1.00	27.0
73.00	72.00	Bank of the South	73.00	+0.05	0.80	28.0
71.50	70.50	Bank of the East	71.50	+0.05	0.60	29.0
70.00	69.00	Bank of the Middle	70.00	+0.05	0.40	30.0
68.50	67.50	Bank of the North	68.50	+0.05	0.20	31.0
67.00	66.00	Bank of the South	67.00	+0.05	0.00	32.0
65.50	64.50	Bank of the East	65.50	+0.05	0.00	33.0
64.00	63.00	Bank of the Middle	64.00	+0.05	0.00	34.0
62.50	61.50	Bank of the North	62.50	+0.05	0.00	35.0
61.00	60.00	Bank of the South	61.00	+0.05	0.00	36.0
59.50	58.50	Bank of the East	59.50	+0.05	0.00	37.0
58.00	57.00	Bank of the Middle	58.00	+0.05	0.00	38.0
56.50	55.50	Bank of the North	56.50	+0.05	0.00	39.0
55.00	54.00	Bank of the South	55.00	+0.05	0.00	40.0
53.50	52.50	Bank of the East	53.50	+0.05	0.00	41.0
52.00	51.00	Bank of the Middle	52.00	+0.05	0.00	42.0
50.50	49.50	Bank of the North	50.50	+0.05	0.00	43.0
49.00	48.00	Bank of the South	49.00	+0.05	0.00	44.0
47.50	46.50	Bank of the East	47.50	+0.05	0.00	45.0
46.00	45.00	Bank of the Middle	46.00	+0.05	0.00	46.0
44.50	43.50	Bank of the North	44.50	+0.05	0.00	47.0
43.00	42.00	Bank of the South	43.00	+0.05	0.00	48.0
41.50	40.50	Bank of the East	41.50	+0.05	0.00	49.0
40.00	39.00	Bank of the Middle	40.00	+0.05	0.00	50.0
38.50	37.50	Bank of the North	38.50	+0.05	0.00	51.0
37.00	36.00	Bank of the South	37.00	+0.05	0.00	52.0
35.50	34.50	Bank of the East	35.50	+0.05	0.00	53.0
34.00	33.00	Bank of the Middle	34.00	+0.05	0.00	54.0
32.50	31.50	Bank of the North	32.50	+0.05	0.00	55.0
31.00	30.00	Bank of the South	31.00	+0.05	0.00	56.0
29.50	28.50	Bank of the East	29.50	+0.05	0.00	57.0
28.00	27.00	Bank of the Middle	28.00	+0.05	0.00	58.0
26.50	25.50	Bank of the North	26.50	+0.05	0.00	59.0
25.00	24.00	Bank of the South	25.00	+0.05	0.00	60.0
23.50	22.50	Bank of the East	23.50	+0.05	0.00	61.0
22.00	21.00	Bank of the Middle	22.00	+0.05	0.00	62.0
20.50	19.50	Bank of the North	20.50	+0.05	0.00	63.0
19.00	18.00	Bank of the South	19.00	+0.05	0.00	64.0
17.50	16.50	Bank of the East	17.50	+0.05	0.00	65.0
16.00	15.00	Bank of the Middle	16.00	+0.05	0.00	66.0
14.50	13.50	Bank of the North	14.50	+0.05	0.00	67.0
13.00	12.00	Bank of the South	13.00	+0.05	0.00	68.0
11.50	10.50	Bank of the East	11.50	+0.05	0.00	69.0
10.00	9.00	Bank of the Middle	10.00	+0.05	0.00	70.0
8.50	7.50	Bank of the North	8.50	+0.05	0.00	71.0
7.00	6.00	Bank of the South	7.00	+0.05	0.00	72.0
5.50	4.50	Bank of the East	5.50	+0.05	0.00	73.0
4.00	3.00	Bank of the Middle	4.00	+0.05	0.00	74.0
2.50	1.50	Bank of the North	2.50	+0.05	0.00	75.0
1.00	0.00	Bank of the South	1.00	+0.05	0.00	76.0
0.50	0.00	Bank of the East	0.50	+0.05	0.00	77.0
0.00	0.00	Bank of the Middle	0.00	+0.05	0.00	78.0
0.00	0.00	Bank of the North	0.00	+0.05	0.00	79.0
0.00	0.00	Bank of the South	0.00	+0.05	0.00	80.0

BREWERIES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	Beck's	100.00	+0.10	4.50	10.0
98.50	97.50	Budweiser	98.50	+0.05	4.20	11.0
97.00	96.00	Coca-Cola	97.00	+0.05	4.00	12.0
95.50	94.50	PepsiCo	95.50	+0.05	3.80	13.0
94.00	93.00	Miller	94.00	+0.05	3.60	14.0
92.50	91.50	Anheuser-Busch	92.50	+0.05	3.40	15.0
91.00	90.00	Heineken	91.00	+0.05	3.20	16.0
89.50	88.50	Carlsberg	89.50	+0.05	3.00	17.0
88.00	87.00	Tiger	88.00	+0.05	2.80	18.0
86.50	85.50	Asahi	86.50	+0.05	2.60	19.0
85.00	84.00	Daewoo	85.00	+0.05	2.40	20.0
83.50	82.50	San Miguel	83.50	+0.05	2.20	21.0
82.00	81.00	Kingfisher	82.00	+0.05	2.00	22.0
80.50	79.50	Amstel	80.50	+0.05	1.80	23.0
79.00	78.00	Guinness	79.00	+0.05	1.60	24.0
77.50	76.50	Stout	77.50	+0.05	1.40	25.0
76.00	75.00	Black & White	76.00	+0.05	1.20	26.0
74.50	73.50	James Watson	74.50	+0.05	1.00	27.0
73.00	72.00	Black & White	73.00	+0.05	0.80	28.0
71.50	70.50	James Watson	71.50	+0.05	0.60	29.0
70.00	69.00	Black & White	70.00	+0.05	0.40	30.0
68.50	67.50	James Watson	68.50	+0.05	0.20	31.0
67.00	66.00	Black & White	67.00	+0.05	0.00	32.0
65.50	64.50	James Watson	65.50	+0.05	0.00	33.0
64.00	63.00	Black & White	64.00	+0.05	0.00	34.0
62.50	61.50	James Watson	62.50	+0.05	0.00	35.0
61.00	60.00	Black & White	61.00	+0.05	0.00	36.0
59.50	58.50	James Watson	59.50	+0.05	0.00	37.0
58.00	57.00	Black & White	58.00	+0.05	0.00	38.0
56.50	55.50	James Watson	56.50	+0.05	0.00	39.0
55.00	54.00	Black & White	55.00	+0.05	0.00	40.0
53.50	52.50	James Watson	53.50	+0.05	0.00	41.0
52.00	51.00	Black & White	52.00	+0.05	0.00	42.0
50.50	49.50	James Watson	50.50	+0.05	0.00	43.0
49.00	48.00	Black & White	49.00	+0.05	0.00	44.0
47.50	46.50	James Watson	47.50	+0.05	0.00	45.0
46.00	45.00	Black & White	46.00	+0.05	0.00	46.0
44.50	43.50	James Watson	44.50	+0.05	0.00	47.0
43.00	42.00	Black & White	43.00	+0.05	0.00	48.0
41.50	40.50	James Watson	41.50	+0.05	0.00	49.0
40.00	39.00	Black & White	40.00	+0.05	0.00	50.0
38.50	37.50	James Watson	38.50	+0.05	0.00	51.0
37.00	36.00	Black & White	37.00	+0.05	0.00	52.0
35.50	34.50	James Watson	35.50	+0.05	0.00	53.0
34.00	33.00	Black & White	34.00	+0.05	0.00	54.0
32.50	31.50	James Watson	32.50	+0.05	0.00	55.0
31.00	30.00	Black & White	31.00	+0.05	0.00	56.0
29.50	28.50	James Watson	29.50	+0.05	0.00	57.0
28.00	27.00	Black & White	28.00	+0.05	0.00	58.0
26.50	25.50	James Watson	26.50	+0.05	0.00	59.0
25.00	24.00	Black & White	25.00	+0.05	0.00	60.0
23.50	22.50	James Watson	23.50	+0.05	0.00	61.0
22.00	21.00	Black & White	22.00	+0.05	0.00	62.0
20.50	19.50	James Watson	20.50	+0.05	0.00	63.0
19.00	18.00	Black & White	19.00	+0.05	0.00	64.0
17.50	16.50	James Watson	17.50	+0.05	0.00	65.0
16.00	15.00	Black & White	16.00	+0.05	0.00	66.0
14.50	13.50	James Watson	14.50	+0.05	0.00	67.0
13.00	12.00	Black & White	13.00	+0.05	0.00	68.0
11.50	10.50	James Watson	11.50	+0.05	0.00	69.0
10.00	9.00	Black & White	10.00	+0.05	0.00	70.0
8.50	7.50	James Watson	8.50	+0.05	0.00	71.0
7.00	6.00	Black & White	7.00	+0.05	0.00	72.0
5.50	4.50	James Watson	5.50	+0.05	0.00	73.0
4.00	3.00	Black & White	4.00	+0.05	0.00	74.0
2.50	1.50	James Watson	2.50	+0.05	0.00	75.0
1.00	0.00	Black & White	1.00	+0.05	0.00	76.0
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0.00	0.00	Black & White	0.00	+0.05	0.00	78.0
0.00	0.00	James Watson	0.00	+0.05	0.00	79.0
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BUILDING, ROADS

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INFOTECH

Apple is convinced that a new range will transform its image from maverick to firmly mainstream. Matthew May reports

Macintosh 'Rambo' goes into battle

Personal computing may never be the same again. The real battle for the office and home markets over the next few years began in earnest this week when Apple announced three versions of the Macintosh based on a new type of computer chip, the Power PC. As with any new chip it is said to be faster, cheaper and able to do far more than any of its predecessors.

The importance of the Power PC is that it is not solely a new chip for Apple computers. The company has entered into an alliance with IBM, its one-time arch-rival, and Motorola, the company that manufactures the existing chips for Apple's computers.

Power PC is an attempt to claw back market from Intel, the chip giant that has its merchandise in more than 80 per cent of the world's PCs and which doubled its profits to more than £1.5 billion last year. IBM has already announced products that use the Power PC chip but, so far, they are hardly mainstream. Last week, IBM introduced a high-powered portable computer, but with a price tag of more than £8,000 it is for highly specialised use only.

The new Power Macs range from about £1,600 to more than £3,000—just right to reach the heart of the business PC market. Potential buyers should note that the company's own price lists for the machines exclude the additional costs of a keyboard and screen. Apple hopes the Power PC will transform its image as a company long considered a maverick into one that is firmly in the mainstream.

The Power Mac's higher speed and lower cost—perhaps an average of 10 per cent on both counts when compared with machines using Intel's latest Pentium chip—should please Apple's traditional customers and for some tasks the new computers are much faster. They are, said one excited Apple executive, "the Rambos of personal computing".

An important addition is that Apple is doing what would once have been unthinkable. The new computers will run not only existing Macintosh software and new

The attraction is for the buyer who may want or have to use Windows only occasionally

programs specially written for them, but can also "emulate" the DOS and Windows operating systems and the myriad of application programs that run on them. Though such emulation is already technically feasible on some existing Macintosh computers, it slows them down to a point where it has been of little practical use. With the speed of the new Power Macs, Apple says that such emulation can now be performed at the same speed as today's 386 and basic 486 computers.

Since the invention of the PC

more than a decade ago, Apple has been the only company able to feature in the list of the top PC manufacturers that did not produce machines conforming to the IBM-compatible standard. Last year, one in ten PCs sold was an Apple.

The range of Apples and their software may not have been industry-standard, but they have always been seen as the easiest to use. A recent study conducted for the company by consultants Arthur D. Little claimed that Macintosh users completed computing tasks quicker and with fewer errors.

This quirkiness extends further—Apple has long been admired by those wanting to distance themselves from the "corporate suits" who have to use the more boring, industry-standard brands.

Price cuts have made Apple computers more competitive but the advent of the Windows operating system reduced the differences and Apple has lost plenty of customers whose common sense has overruled their hearts.

While coveting a Macintosh or portable Powerbook, some potential buyers have decided that they could not take the risk of occasionally being required to use or produce something that would run only on an industry-standard machine.

Not that anyone wanting to use Windows regularly should buy a Power Mac. As well as losing the speed advantages of the new chip, Windows emulation needs lots of computer memory and a £300 Soft Windows program which would push the price of the cheapest



More desktop power from Apple as it tries to widen its appeal by running industry-standard software

model to well over £2,000, far higher than a standard PC with Windows.

The attraction of the Power Mac is for the buyer who may want to, or have to, use Windows only very occasionally while day-to-day they run the so-called "native" applica-

tions written specially for the new machines.

Many of the leading software firms are preparing Power Mac versions of their products, including some by Microsoft, although only 50 are available at present.

In the business world, it is

Apple's conventional market of people needing powerful machines to perform tasks such as desktop publishing, complex graphics and hefty mathematical and scientific calculations that will be most attracted to the new computers. But it is "fence-sitters"—those not

completely won over to the idea that they must have industry-standard machines—who Apple hopes will increase its market share.

Like its competitors, Apple is convinced that multimedia, with its power-hungry use of such options as moving video pictures and animation, will soon take off. However, these are still very much arguable concepts for everyday use on a desktop.

Apple badly needs fresh success. The Newton electronic notepad, its last high-profile product, was a marketing disaster. Its poor handwriting-recognition software achieved unheard-of publicity for a computer product. Even the Newton 110, a new version announced last week, is still seen as too expensive to sell widely.

The use of Power PC chips has given the Macintosh a new lease of life and IBM's involvement gives the concept more credibility. IBM is likely to announce PCs using the new chips later this year, although only as an addition to its mainstream IBM-compatible products.

Power PC chips have also caught the attention of Intel, which has announced more powerful versions of the Pentium chip. These are likely to give Apple formidable competition as it tries for customers who are not already Macintosh users.

For buyers, the main advantage will be that such fierce competition will continue to keep prices down while PCs continue their inexorable rise in power.

Turn your computer into a TV

Now you can call up the television news or teletext while you work

Bolt-on extras such as CD-Roms and software packages for Windows are turning personal computers into multimedia machines. The latest trend is to turn a PC into a television set.

In the early days, the keyboard unit produced a video signal that was fed to a domestic TV set. Video games still work in this way.

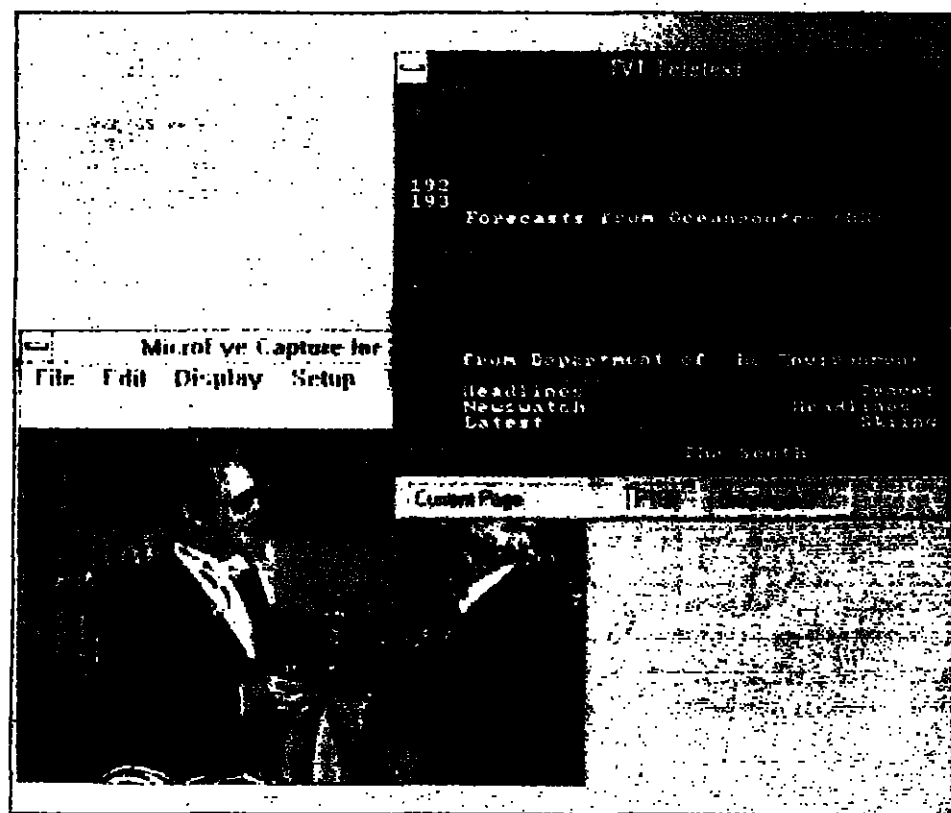
However, passing the computer's output through so much extra circuitry degrades the picture. The PAL colour standard used in Europe displays only 50 pictures a second and shows bad jitter on any horizontal edges—TV sets are, after all, designed to be watched from across the room, not viewed from close range.

The IBM system, which became the *de facto* standard for PCs, relies on a dedicated monitor which takes its text and graphics feed direct from the heart of the computer, removing any need for any modulation circuitry. The pictures are displayed at a rate of at least 60 a second, and the manufacturers of the cathode-ray tube coat the screen surface with phosphors that glow longer and thus look brighter.

With text and graphics, it does not matter if moving highlights smear a little. The phosphor colours are also chosen to enhance brilliance and clarity, rather than reproduce accurate flesh tones expected from a television set.

All this makes text and graphics on a PC look crisper so the screen can be viewed from close range.

But the new generation of multimedia PC programs that are increasingly being held on CD-Rom discs rely on the display of still or moving photographic images. Flesh



New software allows PC users to call in television programmes and teletext

tones are therefore important.

When first installed, these programs may display an error message on screen, warning the user to reconfigure the PC so that it displays a wider range of colours (256 instead of 16).

Even if the user knows how to make the necessary change, there is nothing that can be done to stop any smear effect on moving objects caused by long-persistence phosphors. Hence, multimedia material may look better on a stand-alone CD-I player which connects to a domestic TV set.

The latest peripherals on offer are plug-in circuit boards which, when connected to a TV aerial, convert the computer to a television set. The PC will then display BBC, ITV or Channel 4 programmes, either in windows of another program or as a full screen view. The boards cost up to £400

and fitting them may well be beyond many PC users.

For some people, it will be cheaper and easier to buy a portable TV for use quite separately from the PC. Few people, after all, can do useful work on a computer screen while watching a television programme tantalisingly displayed in a window of the workspace.

Some office staff may, however, have a genuine need for teletext and the up-to-date news on world events, stock-market prices, and travel which it offers.

Broadcast teletext can be received and displayed on a PC screen, by fitting a circuit board which incorporates both a TV tuner and teletext decoder. These boards can cost as much as a portable TV set with built-in teletext facility. Because teletext is a text and

graphics system, a PC monitor is better suited to display it than a TV screen. But human nature creates special circumstances. Anyone working in an office with a teletext set may be tempted to keep a running watch on sports results or plan holidays from the budget flight pages.

Digiphot of Royston, Hertfordshire, has the answer. "We are taking the play element out of teletext," says Peter Kruger, the managing director. Microeye, which costs about £500, is a circuit board which plugs into a PC, decodes broadcast teletext and serves it into an office network.

The clever part is that control software, that comes with the board, lets the office system supervisor program the decoder to receive only selected pages.

BARRY FOX

Intel to lose out

INTEL, the world's biggest producer of computer chips, has lost an important copyright battle over software that it says was stolen by its biggest competitor.

An American jury said that Advanced Micro Devices, Intel's former ally in "Silicon Valley", had the right to copy built-in software on Intel's chips and use it to make clones of Intel's products.

The case has been closely watched in the computer industry because AMD is one of Intel's few competitors in the £5 billion market for microprocessors.

Pioneer in blue
PIONEER Electronic has produced an advanced laser

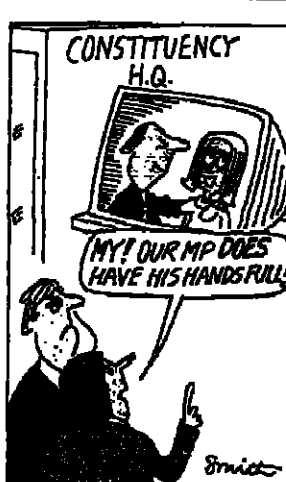
ONLINE

that emits a blue light to reproduce high-quality video for more than two hours. The technique would allow the production of an advanced optical disc system that will be able to record and reproduce high-quality video on a CD-size disc, the company says.

The announcement coincides with an international competition to develop a blue-colour semiconductor laser, which could be applied to a wide range of consumer products such as flat-panel TVs and multimedia systems.

Saudi ban

BY royal decree, Saudi Arabia is putting in place a £130 million wireless cable television system to standardise reception of foreign TV broadcasts in line with the country's



religious and social values. The country is banning the use or manufacture of any other means for receiving and distributing foreign TV programming broadcast by satellite.

£5m MP network

A FULL Parliamentary data and video network should be provided for all MPs and their staff at a cost of £5 million over four years, a Commons committee has recommended.

It would give MPs access to television channels, teletext, proceedings of the Chamber and enable them to have closer contact with their constituency offices.

I spy sale

THE American government is to give US companies greater leeway to sell satellite photographs and remote-imaging systems.

Both France and Russia already sell satellite imagery. American companies are seen as having been held back because the US Defense Department was wary of giving away government secrets.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

SOFTWARE developers

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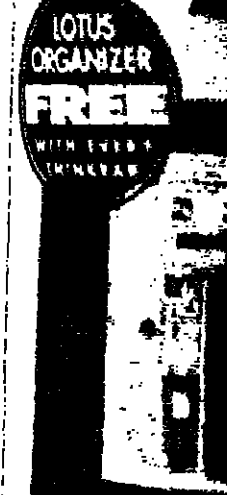
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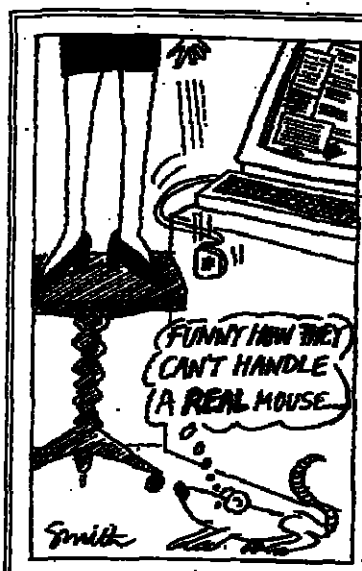
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When is a mouse not a rodent but a classic sports car?

Marketeers are branching out from the houses for their non-furry friends

Anthropomorphic marketing has hit fresh highs in the personal computer industry in America this year with products aimed at personalising your PC to the point where it becomes almost unrecognisable, writes Geoff Wheelwright.

The most common target has always been the humble mouse. Mouse pads, mouse cleaners, a "mouse house" (to keep the mouse dust-free when it is not being used) and mouse covers have long been popular gimmicks for the enterprising PC retailer.

Last year, the industry started to offer new shapes. Sicos offered a

"designer mouse". Microsoft offered one that was shaped to fit the palm of a hand and Logitech offered a "kid's mouse" for children that looked like its real-life namesake.

Meanwhile Motor Mouse, the Canadian mouse makers, developed a mouse that looked like a Lamborghini Countach sports car complete with software that makes engine noises and sounds a hooter as you move around on the screen. That mouse has been

joined by a model shaped like the Corvette.

But sports car enthusiasts aren't the only ones to get their own mouse. American football supporters can now buy the Football Sports Mouse from the appropriately named Impulse Software for \$70 (£48). It looks like a football — except that it's flat underneath — and comes complete with a football field-shaped mousemat.

Spending all this time in front of your computer may open you up to

suggestions that you don't get enough exercise. Someone who has faced these particular slings and arrows has designed an innovative piece of "shareware".

It's a "mouse miles counter" — known as Miles Mouse — which keeps track of the distance travelled by the desktop mouse from the time the computer is switched on, and since the software was installed.

Jim Runkel, the Indianapolis-based shareware author, charges

about \$8 for this amazing insight and his software is available on many popular bulletin boards and information services.

If your mouse has no personality and you wish to aim your anthropomorphism at your screen, don't feel restricted to screen savers. A new \$10 offering from the US-based Screenies Limited Partnership will have your computer screen looking as if it belongs in an art gallery.

The product, Screenies, consists

simply of a cardboard cut-out frame that can be fixed to the front of the display — giving it a border that looks like anything from the classic children's Etch-a-Sketch toy to the kind of ornate gilt frame you might find in the National Gallery.

Sometimes, however, you will find the need to make real life decisions does break into your computing time. If one of those decisions is what to name a new baby, then get Heartbeat Software's Oh, Baby!

It includes about 100,000 popular names — offering the history, ethnic origin, pronunciation and meaning of each, for only \$30.

Which jockeys won the biggest prizes at the 1992 Newmarket races? In the past, it was necessary to trawl through long tables of results. That was before software called Daisy, which uses a technique known as "data-mining".

Unlike conventional database programs, Daisy is designed to look for trends, correlations and hidden links between items buried in databases. It goes a step further by presenting its findings as a simple one-page diagram.

This is not the first time that software developers have tried to give users easier access to secrets that may be lurking in their databases. In the 1980s, much attention was focused on executive information systems as the key to presenting complex information in simple on-screen charts for busy senior managers.

But James Miller, Daisy's developer, says: "I realised long ago that if you could take a lot of complex information out of a database and turn it into a simple, intelligible picture, you would have a valuable tool for a huge range of applications. Daisy lets you plot the statistics in an easy, comparative way so you can spot conflict, waste, ineffectiveness and fraud."

Mr Miller, 46, is well-versed

Super-sleuth Daisy pulls it off

After tracking crooks, James Miller has now developed a system for tracing database secrets. Jane Bird reports

in software development. In the 1970s, he wrote a project management system known as Artemis. The product made him one of Britain's computer millionaires in 1985 when he sold it to Lockheed in a deal worth more than \$100 million.

The terms of the sale excluded Mr Miller from the software business for five years, but by 1990 he was looking for his long-imagined data-to-picture product. He found it in the form of Netmap, a so-called data visualisation tool.

Netmap creates its database pictures by defining arcs around the circumference to correspond to categories of

interest in the database.

In the 1992 races demonstration, for example, they are owners, trainers and jockeys.

The links between items in the categories are then shown by lines connecting them — the thicker the line, the more links. Spotting areas of intense activity is just a case of looking for thick lines.

Netmap has been used by police and detectives to investigate criminal rings and spot connections between fraudsters. In The Netherlands, police used it to help catch a ring of 90 narcotics and murder suspects. In Britain, the Serious Fraud Office tried it on

a mortgage fraud that had taken eight investigators two years to solve. The software is credited with having helped to pinpoint the culprits in minutes and identify some points that earlier investigators had missed.

But Netmap's £25,000 price tag restricts its market to large-scale computer users. Mr Miller was convinced that it could have much wider commercial appeal if only the price could come down. "Organisations routinely collect large amounts of data with which they do very little," he says. "There is a lot of information in that data that could

improve their performance if only they could extract it."

For example, data pictures could be used in sales forecasting, marketing analysis, or to predict the mean time between failure in manufacturing equipment. Companies seeking BS5750 quality registration could find the weak points in their organisations and eliminate them to ensure consistent standards throughout.

Mr Miller decided to adapt the technology behind Netmap to run on desktop PCs. This was possible, thanks to the increased power of desktop PCs and to the availability of programming languages for creating strong visual effects.

He joined forces with Active Analysis, the London-based company which sells Netmap, and spent several months developing his ideas. The result is Daisy, priced at £995 and designed specifically for people who lack computer expertise. There is no need to use the keyboard — all the analysis techniques can be performed using a desktop mouse — and small sections of the diagram can be magnified to give a more detailed view of what is happening.

Daisy can handle about 30,000 records, whereas Netmap, running on a workstation, can cope with more than ten million. That should take care of most companies' database needs.



James Miller, whose Netmap programs helped in police investigations, with Daisy

International business highway at your desk

The "information super-highway" could be on its way to the office desk, writes Paul Lavin. Santa Cruz Operation (SCO), a Californian software company, has just announced what it describes grandly as a "global access gateway", an all-in-one £800 package to connect businesses to the Internet network.

Internet started about 20 years ago as a US Department of Defense network project that was eventually taken over by academia. Most universities and libraries are now connected.

Today there are up to 20 million users able to connect directly onto Internet. The commercial part is expected to grow by two million this year. SCO's new package removes some of the more arcane requirements of connecting to the Internet. At the moment, users largely have to assemble their own networking software, presentation software and other bits needed.

David Gurr, market development manager for SCO's British arm, based in Watford, Hertfordshire, says: "While faster communications are needed to support the explosive growth that Internet is showing, that doesn't mean that business users have to wait until Westminster or Brussels finish their deliberations. Internet is open for business now."

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Laughing their way to the bank

A company share-option scheme is one of the best ways to create millionaires, requiring only a startlingly successful computer company. Millionaires can even be humble information-technology specialists who happen to be in the right place at the right time.

American reports suggest that several hundred of the 9,000 staff at the United States headquarters of Microsoft, the software company, are millionaires — beneficiaries of share-option schemes.

Having been with the company since it was a little-known supplier of microcomputer-programming languages, they have watched their on-paper fortunes soar as Microsoft has pursued its astronomic growth path. Bill Gates, the company's president, is a modern American Croesus, but many of his relatively junior colleagues could easily give up their day jobs.

If there are any Microsoft UK millionaires, they prefer to keep it quiet and the company declines to comment on the tax status of its employees. Some guesses could be made about employees who have been with the company since its foundation in 1983, but no confirmation of this is available.

Diane Gerrard, Microsoft's hu-

man resources manager, notes that the same stock option scheme has been available to Microsoft UK employees since day one. She adds that two factors combine against the likelihood of millionaires being created at the same impressive rate achieved by the American parent.

She says: "Because it is a US-based scheme, the tax position here is not as attractive as it is in America. Also, it has not been taken up as much in Europe as in America, which may have something to do with the sense of family on the headquarters campus."

In Britain, there are some companies whose stars have briefly turned into supernovas in which equivalents of the Microsoft millionaires might have been discovered. Shares in such companies as Micro Focus, the programming-language specialist, in the early 1980s soared before settling down at more humdrum levels. More recently, Amstrad, the hardware supplier, was impressing the stock market.

But in those companies the chief executives seem to have been the chief beneficiaries. One individual example is Mike Southon, who sold a company called The Instruction Set to Hoskyns, the IT specialists, and made enough on the deal to pursue a contrasting career as Mike Fab-Gere and the Permissive Society on the college music circuit.

Share schemes as part of a salary package are increasingly common

There are two critical differences in the Microsoft US experience: large numbers of their employees have been millionaires, and the trip proved to be a long one.

If British computer staff lag behind their American cousins in this area, it may simply be a question of timing. Until Margaret Thatcher's creation of a share-owning democracy, share options were widely used in Britain as an excuse for not offering a reasonable

salary. The same suspicion was prevalent in America at an earlier stage. Andy Miller, who eventually built up a respected transatlantic public-relations empire, assisted Compaq and Lotus Developments, now leading PC companies, in their early days but insisted on cash when offered payment in shares.

Today, they would have been worth a fortune. But share-option schemes as part of a remuneration package are increasingly common, and increasingly complex. The Government's 1989 provision for statutory schemes under the employee share ownership plan has seen them extend down into the ranks more than had previously been the case, when executive schemes were more common than save as you earn share options for employees.

Logica, the software house and consultancy, went public in 1983 and the following year launched its first SAYE scheme. This combined share-ownership in the company with a standard savings plan. If the share price fell, employees still had

the savings element and the interest it raised, and shares could be made available at a discount of up to 20 per cent.

Kalamazoo, a Birmingham systems house, has a similar scheme, but for every share bought by an employee it donates one itself. This is known with down-to-earth Midlands humour as the Bogof programme: buy one, get one free. Logica, like other UK companies, reacts with some embarrassment when asked how many millionaires it has on its staff. Obviously, the message that millionaires are good for the country is not getting across. The reason, once again, is British reticence about success.

The respectable line is that share-option schemes are not intended to make people wealthy but to increase democracy within organisations. To talk about them purely in terms of personal wealth is to miss the point.

This may not be how ordinary information-technology workers with a stake in their company see the matter. Not every company can be as successful as Microsoft, but that should not stop individuals dreaming that their participation in the industry might produce an unexpected bonus.



Bill Gates and wife Melinda: a modern American Croesus

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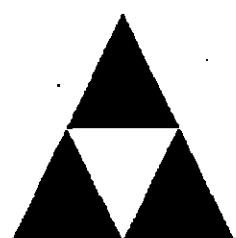
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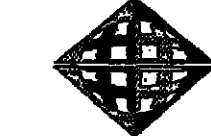
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ROCK page 32

Caitlin Moran reviews
the abrasive career
of the eternally
obstreperous Miles Hunt



POP page 33

Does the punk spirit
of Johnny Rotten
live on in 'new wave'
of new wave' bands?



ARTS

Get your granny bar-coded or go down a drain — Nigel Hawkes delves into National Science Week

The appliance of fun to science

National Science Week, which begins today, is a country-wide attempt to show that science is not an incomprehensible foreign language, but an approachable and often highly entertaining subject. In the spirit of bridging "the two cultures", *The Times* science editor, Nigel Hawkes, introduces the week to readers of the arts pages.

Stand by for an orgy of scientific fun. Next week it should be difficult to breathe without being reminded of National Science Week, an event launched with the aim of selling science to a sceptical public.

To pick a few activities at random, you can get your granny bar-coded in York, go driving on the Moon, or take a trip down the drain in virtual reality in Norwich. There will be countless competitions, special exhibitions, and a vast range of lectures.

In all, about 1,100 events are planned by 700 different organisations, but there could be many more. The British Association for the Advancement of Science (BA), which has organised the week, has been bombarded with so many events that it has stopped counting. Yet the total cost will be no more than £100,000 or so.

The worst thing about Science Week is its name, SET7, which means that it covers science, engineering and technology and will last a week, starting today. But let's not cavil: the Science Week, initially greeted less than rapturously by some, looks like being a great success.

Its beguiling is Brian Gamble, director of programmes at the BA, who says the aim is to reach those who have so far missed out on science. "It's totally different from the annual meeting of the BA, which is directed at people who already have an interest in science. The target is the punter, the one who would not go to science events because they're boring."

A great salesman and creator of enthusiasm, he started by writing 7,000 letters to deans of university departments, industry, research directors, corporate members of the BA, and others. Many didn't respond, but a lot did.

The Science Week marks a coming-of-age of the new approach to presenting science pioneered by the BA, by "hands-on" science centres such as Bristol's Exploratory, and by initiatives such as the Science Museum's Science Box. The aim is to improve public understanding of science, enthuse the young, and remind the more mature and cynical that without science and technology life would be much less pleasant.

Some organisations, of course, have been doing this for a long time. The BA struggled for years before reaching the sunlit uplands of William Waldegrave's approval. The Royal Institution, with its Christmas Lectures and Friday evening Discourses, has never lost sight of the fact that science needs converts as well as established believers.

But few universities or science museums have seen it as their role to act as evangelists. At the drop of a grant the lobby can call on big guns to declare that culture is dead unless the latest outrage of the Arts Council is reversed. Science

spends far more, absolutely, but has never developed a very powerful voice in its own defence.

The trouble with science is that it is neither a performance art nor a spectator sport. The demands it makes of its followers are more than simply buying a ticket to bask in familiar bags of music, performed in a slightly different way. Science is intellectually demanding, and there is not much point in pretending otherwise.

Yet in the past the gap between science and its audience was not so dangerously wide. In the 18th century, peripatetic lecturers like Stephen Demainbray could sell tickets for courses of lectures on science, and aristocratic patrons like George II would order sets of apparatus from the scientific instrument-makers.

In those days the educated person would feel a failure if he made no effort to understand science. No such guilt attaches to scientific illiteracy today; there are some who wear it like a campaign medal.

Britain's first Professor of the Public Understanding of Science, John Durant, who divides his time between Imperial College and the Science Museum, acknowledges that museums have sometimes failed. "It's easy to talk about the past, but much more of a challenge to explain things here and now," he says.

Professor Durant's response has been Science Box, an exhibition space within the Science Museum that picks on an issue of the moment, mounts a display rapidly and depends on a steady turnover of ideas. In the first

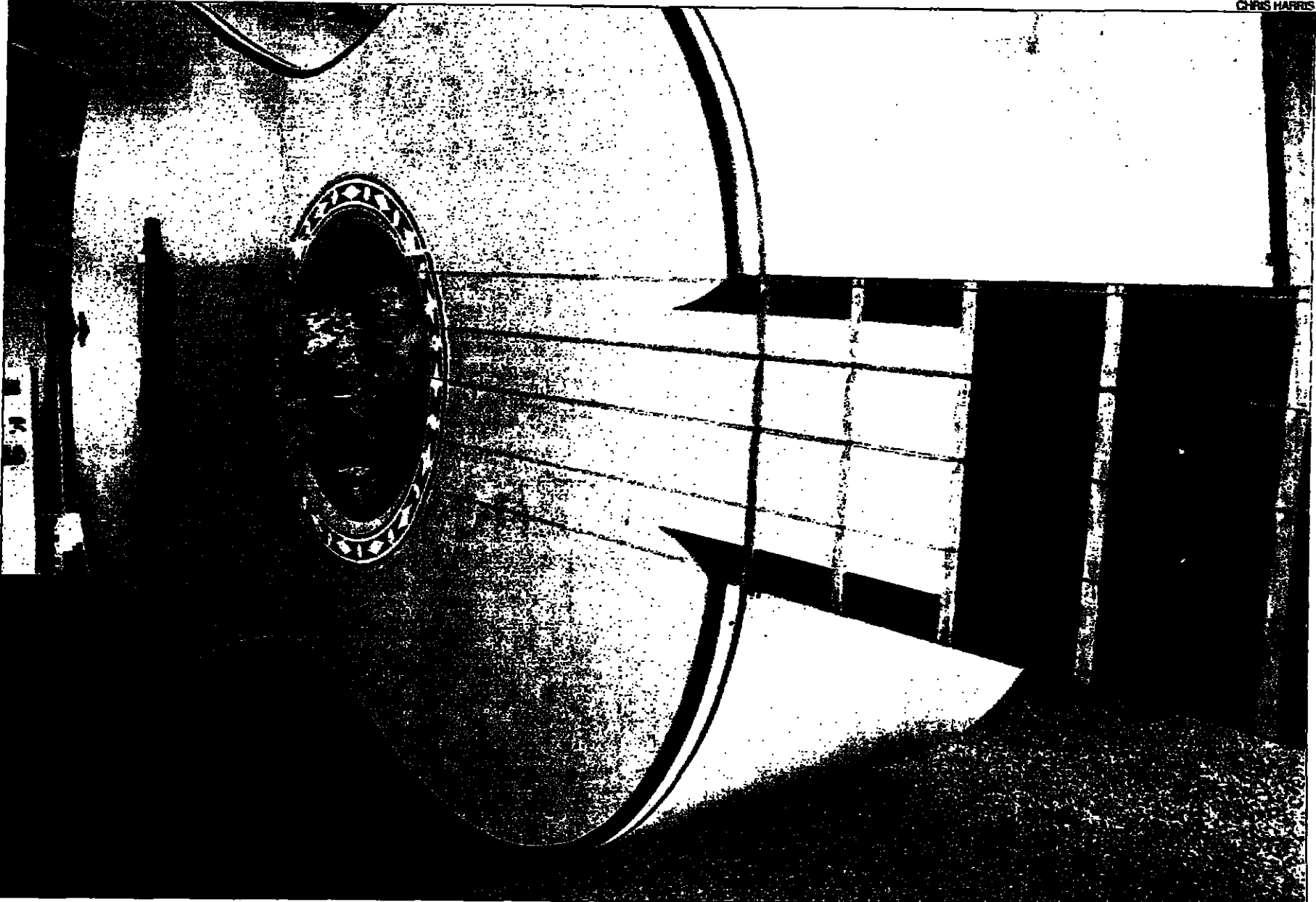
two years, Science Box has put on seven exhibitions, ranging from passive smoking to technology for the disabled.

Nuclear Electric, which has sponsored Science Box, announced this week a further two years' support, worth £255,000, so Professor Durant is treading for good ideas. "We look for contemporary — I don't like dead stories. We want stories with a substantial amount of science, and substantial social relevance."

The evidence is that between one-third and two-thirds of the visitors to the museum are stopping at Science Box, and some of the first Science Boxes are now on tour around provincial centres. You can see passive smoking in the Bull Ring at Birmingham, for example.

If universities and museums have responded well to Science Week, the same cannot quite be said of industry. "We can't say we've been overwhelmed," says David Butler of the BA. "We certainly hoped we could enlist industry to a greater extent." With a few exceptions — Nuclear Electric, Merck, Glaxo, Wellcome, British Gas and Esso among them — business has been lukewarm.

Two further exceptions are Cadbury's, which is organising a national Great Egg race (design a vehicle that will carry two



Primary schoolchildren investigate pitch and vibration via a walk-in guitar at the Bristol Exploratory, a "hands-on" centre and pioneer of the new approach to science

Crete Eggs along a 15-metre course) and Sainsbury's, which will be promoting a science quiz at its supermarkets (see right for Mr Waldegrave's stirring performance in this).

Ian Harvey, chief executive of British Technology Group, is in an excellent position to gauge the health of British science. His company is responsible for licensing the know-how originating in universities and government laboratories. He welcomes Science Week — "so long as people actually go to the events" — and believes that the White Paper and Mr Waldegrave have had a good effect on morale.

Compared with many, he is upbeat about the state of British science. "The revenue generated in Britain from universities and government research is four to five times as great as in the US," he says. "In spite of what everybody says, we are good at capturing value from our discoveries. Britain is an excellent research base, one of the world's best, and the top British companies are very good. But we do have a long tail to our batting."

One of the greatest failings, he believes, is the reluctance of companies to recruit graduates, or to persevere with research at the expense of dividends. Science Week cannot change that — even if, as seems likely, it becomes an annual event. But it may be able to chip away at the prejudices that still prevent so many taking an interest in science, and inspire a new generation to carry it on.

One country, two cultures

A few years ago, Nigel Hawkes writes, the *Times Higher Education Supplement* ran an interesting article which quoted the views of leading academics and writers on "ten essential texts for the educated person". There were no science books among them.

The *THES* was doing no more than reflecting the prevailing view of the cultural elite: to be educated at all means to be educated in the humanities. Scientists are so used to being disdained that there was barely a peep of protest.

Thirty-five years after C.P. Snow's lecture on the two cultures, Britain is no closer to uniting them. Last Sunday, in *The Sunday Times*, John Casey performed what has become a ritual dance of rage over Snow's ideas, describing them as preposterous. Yet Snow only suggested that anybody capable of reading Shakespeare should also be able to explain the Second Law of Thermodynamics: a modest proposal still far from realisation.

As part of Science Week, Sainsbury's has devised a test of scientific literacy, and invited the actress Dervla Kirwan, industrialist Sir John Harvey-Jones and science minister William Waldegrave to try it. Anybody wishing to pit their wits against this trio can



Worlds apart: "Einstein" explains the theory of relativity to "Marilyn Monroe" in Nicolas Roeg's film *Insignificance*

find the test in the March issue of the *Sainsbury's Magazine*, 95p from all branches of the store. Waldegrave, it turns out, would have been the apple of Snow's eye. He scored 90 per cent. Astronomer Heather Couper and science writer Nigel Henbest, who devised the test, admitted they were "amazingly impressed".

Nobody has ever doubted Waldegrave's intelligence, but he read Greats — Latin and Greek — not science. He told the magazine: "I always made a speciality of studying the philosophy of sci-

ence. And I like to read good, generalist books on science." Less encouraging results came from Sir John Harvey-Jones, despite his record as a former chairman of ICL. "Don't tell me that William Waldegrave went all through this without any hints," he roared. "How stinky!" Sir John scored a modest 60 per cent, dodging a question about chemicals altogether.

Dervla Kirwan, who took the test at the Globe Theatre, where she was appearing in the Feydeau farce *An Absolute Turkey*, has the

Irish equivalent of A levels in biology and physics. She scored 65 per cent, claiming she couldn't remember any of the science she learnt at school.

The Sainsbury's test, well-devised and not too difficult, is likely to reveal impressive levels of ignorance among most who try it. Some years ago a survey showed that less than a third of Britons knew that electrons were smaller than atoms, and a third believed that antibiotics killed viruses as well as bacteria.

Over the past decade, the numbers studying science at A level and at university has been in decline. The Science Week activities in Bradford next week include a scheme to encourage children to work in the world of science and engineering, sparked off by the realisation by a professor at the university that last summer, of 6,243 18-year-olds in the Bradford area, only 183 gained A level physics, and 204 A level maths.

Worthwhile as it may be to promote scientific careers, that is not going to bridge the cultural divide. To do that means breaking down largely self-created barriers among those who had a bad experience of science at school, and have fought shy of it ever since. That is the principal purpose of the week's activities.

TELEVISION: No escape from South African violence

Soweto's foxtrot

The idea of ballroom dancing in South Africa is quite startling, and it becomes even more so, once you have seen it. In last night's first instalment of *Beloved Country*, Christopher Terrell's new six-part South Africa documentary series on BBC2, black casualty nurse Dorothy blanked out the blood and bandages of her Soweto hospital by decking herself in sequinned slippers and mint-green boa, and foxtrotting to trophy success. It was certainly peculiar to watch.

But if ballroom dancing in Soweto sounds like a byword for stupidity, that is a measure of how easily Soweto is dismissed as a place where people just kill each other. Dorothy isn't stupid. At 27, she is intelligent, passionate and politically active, lives with a front-line black policeman, and knows precisely what is going on. She needs a method of escape, that's all.

Constructed as a diary of eight months in 1993, this first instalment of *Beloved Country* certainly took us behind the headlines, as its producer intended. Aerial shots showed the sprawl of Soweto; night panoramas, with a million tiny lights under an enormous moon, impressed you with the impossibility of penetrating or controlling such a place. Every night in Soweto, Dorothy's laconic, dangerous boyfriend Mandla stops cars and beats up suspects; every day at the hospital, casualties with heads bleeding like punctured fruit are bandaged on trolleys. The department gets more shootings and stabbings at weekends, said Dorothy matter-of-factly. And lots more at the end of the month.

Who wouldn't prefer to go dancing? If the world news tends to show us a lot of South African funerals, the editors are obviously doing their job properly. In last night's film

we saw three solemn funerals in an hour. Chris Hani's huge state ceremony was only the biggest (he was shot outside his house in Dawn Park, the "ex-white" neighbourhood Dorothy wants to live in). The ambush of a police car, the back seat a mush of blood and glass, led to another funeral: the senseless death of a ballroom dancer to the third.

At first, it seemed daring of Terrell to show the dead and injured; after a while, you realised he couldn't possibly omit them. He was just shifting the received image of people are killing each other, they must also be dying. Dorothy herself was shot in the leg one night, but she recovered enough to continue dancing. The life of a black person in Soweto, she said straightforwardly, is something that can be taken away from you at any moment.

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Dot
Chelsea Centre

Illusionism: theatre and magic have that in common. Yet a combination of drama and tricks with silk handkerchiefs tends to be a drag. Tony Harrison's *Square Rounds* turned National Theatre spectators into escape artists even before the interval. Now Sharon Kennet's *Dot* makes you wish you had the legerdemain to vanish up your own sleeve and reappear instantaneously on the bus home. Marge's conjuring practice appears to have bored her husband absolutely rigid: George, watching her disastrously spinning plates and levitating feather dusters on hardly invisible threads, is a plaster cast.

Dot (Kennet) is another unhappy housewife with a (less literally) stony spouse, Mr Harry, who gets his erotic sauciness from a French prostitute between crises of Catholic guilt. This couple, though live in a parallel universe to their modern counterparts. Dot cuts her wrists while Marge symbolically toys with a bendy blade. The former,

ultimately finding love with the eel boy (spot the trouser snake symbolism), breaks free of her marital prison as Marge wriggles out of iron chains.

Kennet's play, albeit not simply condoning its female protagonists, is intended, I think, to demonstrate what unloving mistreatment and undesirable forms of male sexuality can drive women to do: join convents, attempt suicide, kill their husbands. This final solution, here, seems unbalanced. If the sexes were reversed, Dot might be criticised as misogynous. What precisely has George

done to Marge to deserve being sawn in half?

Garbled, insufficiently integrated storylines and poor acting don't help one to sympathise with any characters. Carolanne Lynne's own ham-fistedness shows through in Marge's amateur hocus pocus. Liz Brimicombe as the bottom-slapping abbess cuts a fine figure, like the Wicked Queen in a wimple, but fails to get much out of a rather cheap caricature beyond straddling the delineation between saintly and scarlet women. Maggie Probert and Nell Phoenix, rising above nummy farce with her portrayal of lesbian attraction, are small mercies.

Liam Halligan (Mr Harry) performs with scarcely more animation than the unfortunate George. Jon Morrell's descending screens divide the deep stage into strips but keep characters stuck in two dimensionality. Kevin Knight's direction lacks sensitive originality and the performance is painfully slow. Dot Dot Dot. Skip this.

KATE BASSETT

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NATIONAL GALLERY

LAST WEEKS

THE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 18 1994

POP ON FRIDAY: Anarchy in the UK coming again, maybe ... more misery from Morrissey ... a great slice of Fluck

Are the young guns as hot as the Pistols?

For the Clash read S*M*A*S*H*, for Rotten read Hooligan, for punk read the new wave, says David Sinclair

N ews that the spirit of punk is once again abroad in our sceptred isle has not aroused quite the same passion, or outcry, as it provoked the first time around. Still, in recent weeks the nursery wing of the music press has been awash with fevered stories about a raft of angry young acts whose mission is to shake people out of their complacency and generally kick against the pricks.

Band such as Compulsion, Shed Seven, Cornershop, S*M*A*S*H*, Elastica, Echobelly, Blessed Ebel and These Animal Men have, it seems, enough of a common attitude to warrant being herded together into a putative new punk scene, although most of them are linked as much by an accident of timing as by any genuine musical or fashion connections.

The movement's quasi-official tag, first coined in a review of a group called Mantaray in *New Musical Express*, is "the new wave of new wave". This spectacularly clumsy label surely has its provenance in the sort of adspack which produced such nonsense slogans as "washes whiter than white".

Among seasoned observers and one suspects, the broader mass of the record-buying public, the emergence of a "new wave" of young, boisterous and ostentatiously working-class rock acts, all stridently committed to shaking up the system by playing fast songs with controversial lyrics, has provoked little more than a mild sense of déjà vu tempered by a mood of creeping cynicism. Haven't we seen all this sort of thing before? Didn't that kind of thing go out with Johnny Rotten, the Jubilee year and "God Save The Queen"?

Rotten, now the more soberly named John Lydon, recalls the advent of the first new wave with predictable contempt in his autobiography, *Rotten: No Irish, No Blacks, No Dogs*, published next month. "After the Pistols that term New Wave was the kiss of death! Elvis Costello into Joe Jackson into Tom Robinson," he writes. "Poncey journalists who read all the right mags came up with that term. The first time I heard the term it sickened me and turned my stomach."

Written in a terse, anecdotal style, Lydon's book is an insider's account of the punk years that explodes surprisingly few of the myths about the rise and fall of the Sex Pistols. The swearing episode with interviewer Bill Grundy on tea-time television, the vomiting in the departure lounge at Heathrow, the ransacking of the record company offices and a host of similarly lurid exploits, not all of which made the headlines at the time, are detailed in the rather bored, off-hand manner Lydon has always affected.

Lydon's account of his childhood in Finsbury Park, north London, and his at times bizarre relationship with his father, is fascinating; his whining, nagging criticisms of the Pistols' manager Malcolm McLaren and original bassist Glen Matlock, less so. What emerges most forcibly from the book is the artlessness of it all, and the lack of intellectual pretensions ("journalistic psychobabble") that Lydon feels have been foisted on a straightforward story.

A bunch of talented, disaffected youths, frustrated by the injustices of life in general and the apparent lack of opportunity in a monolithic music business in particular, resolved to overturn a few apple carts and make a name for themselves while they were about it. Contrary to popular belief, and McLaren's preferred version of events, Lydon insists that there was no master plan, just "some kind of vaguely organised chaos".

Today's young turks have a significantly harder job on their hands if they are to make anything like the same kind of impact with their 1990s version of "vaguely organised chaos". In the heyday of punk, having a pop at the Queen and calling your record *Never Mind The Bollocks* ... was enough to provoke a reaction. Nowadays you have to go a bit further.

These Animal Men, a four-piece and its artwork was thoughtfully drawn to the attention of an MP and an executive member of the National Association of Head Teachers.

Hooligan, singer with These Animal Men, remains defiant. "We wanted to play to kids in schools because they can't get into a lot of proper gigs because the Government's drugs [ie, alcohol] are on sale."

A cheerful chap, Hooligan (real name Julian) was seven in 1977 and remembers punk as an extension of *Tiswas*, the anarchic children's television show.

from Brighton, have illustrated the cover of their debut single "Speed King" (sic) with a photograph of a plate full of amphetamine sulphate with four rolled-up banknotes sticking out of it.

Not surprisingly, the group's proposed tour of schools and youth clubs has run into difficulties; after the pro-drugs nature of the song

Tiswas, the anarchic Saturday morning children's television show. But he recognises the values his group share with the original punks.

"The new wave of new wave is about a bunch of supernova bands," he says. "It's not going to last long, but basically groups haven't played this well and meant

it this much for 20 years. We're pretty socialist in our values, but really we're a bit too thick for any form of political argument. We're just a group of real misfits having a go."

Taking things rather more seriously are S*M*A*S*H*, the trio from Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, who have established an enviable reputation as a live act ("If you aren't spat on, stomped on, thrilled and inspired, demand your money back," said *The Sunday Times*). They have also acquired notoriety (if limited airplay) for their single "Lady Love Your C**", a title borrowed (with permission) from a collection of essays by Germaine Greer.

Rob, S*M*A*S*H*'s drummer, was 12 when *Never Mind The Bollocks* ... came out. "It turned me on to looking for exciting, challenging music," he says. "Next thing I got into was Tom Robinson's *Power In The Darkness*, which was quite political and threw up things that I'd never heard of before: homophobia and racism and stuff like that."

"We're trying to be honest, and we're trying to put information out, throw things up for people to challenge. Whether it's going to open people's minds or make them hate us, I don't know."

The cyclical nature of rock is, of course, confirmed with each passing year. The only real surprise is how closely conditions in the early 1990s conform to those of the late 1970s. As Lydon writes in the conclusion of his book: "It's extremely sad that, economically, 'no future' is even more timely today than when the Pistols first played it. I'm not very happy about that at all. Frankly I would have liked 'Anarchy in the UK' to be seen now as a joke."

● Rotten: No Irish, No Blacks, No Dogs by John Lydon is published by Hodder & Stoughton (£14.99) on April 5. S*M*A*S*H* and Blessed Ebel are at the Underworld, London NW1 (071-482 1932) tonight. Their tour ends at the Princess Charlotte, Leicester (0533 553959) on April 3. These Animal Men play the Army & Navy, Chelmsford (0245 268424) tonight. Their tour ends at the Splash Club, Water Rats, London WC1 (071-278 3879) on April 15.

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The Sex Pistols — (from left) Paul Cook, Johnny Rotten, whose autobiography is published soon, and Steve Jones — are the spiritual fathers of Hooligan, Boag, Stevie and Patrick of These Animal Men



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NEW ALBUMS: Morrissey wonders why the world hates him. Answers on a postcard, please

Strange ways here he comes again

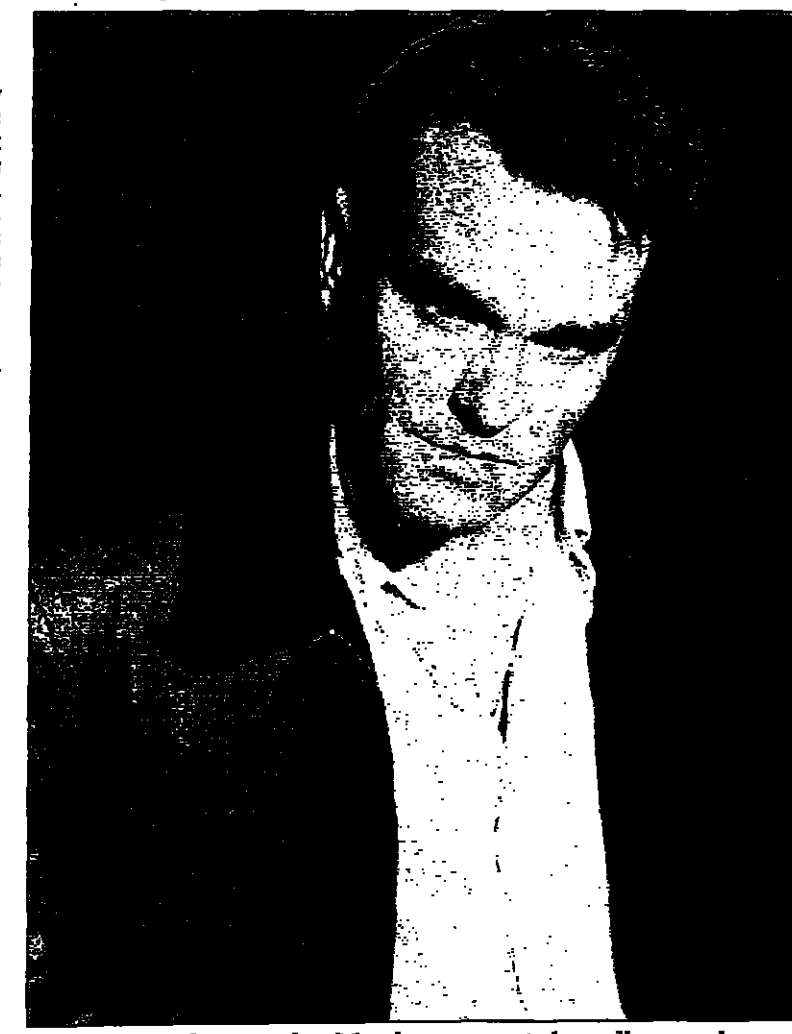
MORRISSEY
Vauxhall And I
(Parlophone 8 27791 2)
FOR a while it sounded as if Morrissey had shaken off the fey mannerisms and debilitating neuroses which beset so much of his early solo work. On his most recent studio album, the Mick Ronson-produced *Your Arsenal*, and again on last year's superlative live album, *Beethoven Was Deaf*, he adopted a more confident, assertive style of delivery, a pseudo-rockabilly strut that suggested a man well capable of tackling life on his own terms with at least an even chance of coming out on top.

Vauxhall And I is a return to the Morrissey of old, a wan, withdrawn, self-obsessed character condemned to spending endless rainy afternoons in deserted English tea gardens, wondering why the rest of the world hates him so much.

A recurring theme is that of friends. "I don't have too many ..." he laments in "Now My Heart Is Full", the syllables of the lyric stretched like a long, sad sigh over the gently undulating chord sequence. The homespun philosophy of "Hold On To Your Friends" is, of course, not advice directed at himself, but at an old ally who is now stretching Morrissey's patience. Poor lamb, why must it always be him who is so let down?

The spirit of the music seems to sag in sympathy with the self-pitying tone of the lyrics. Even a genuinely pretty tune like "I Am Hated For Loving", or the catchy chorus of "The More You Ignore Me, The Closer I Get" seem drab and burdened with the weariness of it all, while "The Lazy Sunbathers", a clever critique of the apathetic attitude of the leisured classes, contains an entirely appropriate, but not specially enjoyable, mood of assuade.

Things perk up on the uptempo "Billy Budd" and the wittily observed "Spring-Heeled Jim", the latter enlivened by snippets of likely-lad conversation lifted from the film *Let Him Have It*. But the album's pièce de résistance is a song called "Lifeguard Sleeping, Girl Drowning", a metaphorical narrative, sung in a strange sobbing whisper that cuts deeper than all the rest of the flummery put together. Here is the genuinely tragic dimension that the rest of the songs are only playing



He may look the same, but Morrissey seems to have discovered anew the pleasures of lonely self-pity and spite on the album *Vauxhall And I*

descent of a man (mankind even?) into reptilian depths of degradation through tracks like "Mr Self Destruct", "Closer" ("Let me violate you, let me desecrate you") and "Big Man With A Gun". The saga terminates with the final act of self-abuse to which the title track refers: suicide ("A lifetime of f---ing things up [fixed in one determined flash]").

Behind Rezno's cosically angry roar, the pounding rhythms evoke images of heavy industrial pumps or marching jackboots, while the mostly synthesized instrumental sounds are frayed and distorted at the edges, cloaking the arrangements in a harsh, unforgiving sonic glare.

- FOR NEW ALBUMS
- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 "Vauxhall And I" | Morrissey (Parlophone) |
| 2 Music Box | Meriah Carey (Columbia) |
| 3 The Cross Of Changes | Enigma (Virgin) |
| 4 Brutal Youth | Elvis Costello (Warner Bros) |
| 5 Elegant Slumming | M People (deConstruction) |
| 6 Happy Nation (US Version) | Ace of Base (Metronome) |
| 7 Everybody Else Is Doing It | Cranberries (Island) |
| 8 Superunknown | Soundgarden (A&M) |
| 9 Debut | Björk (One Little Indian) |
| 10 Forever Now | Level 42 (RCA) |
- Compiled by MRS

BECK
Mellow Gold
(Geffen GED24634)
AS those familiar with his recent hit single, "Loser", will know, Beck Hansen is virtually impossible to locate musically, which is half his charm. A fresh-faced, 23-year-old singer-songwriter from Los Angeles, he comes from a bohemian, folk-circuit background and has a fondness for sleepy, country blues licks. These he picks out on a gutbucket acoustic guitar that sounds as if it was last tuned properly when John Lee Hooker was in his teens.

But Beck also likes sitars and kazooos and beatbox rhythms and samplers and the sound of geiger counters going crazy and whole blizzards of electronic noise. What's more he's found space for all of this and more on *Mellow Gold*, his debut album, and overlaid it with a unique white-boy rapping style which he uses to declaim his semi-sensense rhymes.

The overall effect is a sort of modern, folk-woodoo music, some of which reaches the outermost boundaries of what the ear will accept as music, and some of which sounds childishly simple.

Like all the best makers of popular music, Beck has discovered new ways of mixing sounds and sensations. It seems bizarre at first, but indefinitely appealing nevertheless.

THE CHARLATANS
Up To Our Hips
(Beggars Banquet BBQCD 147)
IN the continuing absence of the stupendously dilatory Stone Roses (it's now almost five years since their debut album), it seems that the Charlatans will just have to do. Their third album, *Up To Our Hips* is a stylish conflation of the usual retro elements: guitars, Hammond organ, a strong, bashing drum sound, and songs that wear their 1960s influences boldly on their sleeves.

The group's problem remains their inability to coax a decent performance from Tim Burgess, a singer patently chosen for his moody look and beesting lips rather than for any perceptible quality in his voice. Although an indispensable presence in the band's videos, his weedy, reedy tone and limited range prove a fearful handicap to an otherwise winning batch of songs, the recent single "Can't Get Out Of Bed" being a notable case in point.

So it's no accident that the most convincing track on the album, "Feel Flows", is an instrumental, a pounding groove, escorted by a brilliant clavinet-tone keyboard part and bolstered by a bravura contribution from the rhythm section. Perhaps Burgess should take the hint.

DAVID SINCLAIR

ALTHOUGH "body rock" was a term coined to describe the effect that reggae's bass-heavy frequencies have on one's body, the phrase is equally applicable to any music that reverberates skeletal structures. Fluck are a three-piece who have nothing to do with reggae; their origins lie somewhere between Laurie Anderson and Kraftwerk, Pink Floyd and acid house. But these are vague limiting demarcations: there is, rather, something very new and startlingly original at play here.

Some of course, have known about Fluck for years. Mike Tournier, Mike Bryant and Jon Fugler have played a handful of concerts, primarily in the same club-indie constituency that launched Primal Scream, while a steadily selling debut album, *Six Wheels On My Wagon*, and remix projects for Björk have alerted further listeners.

This concert marked the end of a small tour to launch a new single, "Bubble", and the faithful and the curious alike

CONCERT

Next big thing

Fluck
Subterania, W10

packed Subterania to bursting point. Fluck are serious-looking young men with severe haircuts, living under the weight of an enormous and far-reaching music. Their relative smallness seemed emphasised by their technology: Fugler's vocals are fed through a digital distorting unit, while Tournier's keyboards and Bryant's on-stage engineering threw out pulsing, whooshing, bleeping

sounds. A prodigiously well-crafted lightshow bound the trio in geometric webs.

Unlike most technologically produced music, there was a sense of humanity. Fluck retain a deft and subtle touch on the emotional buttons. The sheer power of "Slid", "Groovy Feeling" and "Thumper" made way for the echoes of Spanish guitar that fuelled their Mitchell tribute, "Joni". Shards of light and sound scattered over "Top Of The World" and "Bubble" bubbled with volcanic energy.

Historical longing has always played a role in popular music. Thousands, maybe millions, claim to have been present when the Sex Pistols played Islington's Screen on the Green, or to have danced away the small hours in Southwark's back streets with the Shoom Club for company. In a year, thousands, maybe millions, will wish themselves backwards, to the days when Fluck electrified small venues.

LOUISE GRAY

THE TIMES

OWN YOUR OWN

Goya

The first major exhibition of the work of Francisco Goya for 30 years opens on March 17 at the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London, W1.

Goya: Truth and Fantasy will contain about 100 small-scale paintings drawn from private collections, museums and galleries. The exhibition, which runs until June 12, is mounted in association with The Times, Classic FM and with support from Iberia Airlines.

To celebrate the power of Goya's art, The Times is offering readers a free reproduction print of Goya's 1794-95 painting *Self-Portrait in the Studio* owned by Museo de la Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando, Madrid. The reproduction print measures 510mm x 360mm including border and is printed on heavyweight paper.

HOW TO GET YOUR FREE GOYA

Collect six tokens from The Times (the first was printed in The Times Magazine last Saturday, March 12, and one will be printed everyday this week). When you have collected six tokens, attach them to the coupon which appeared in The Times Magazine on Saturday, March 12. Full details of where to send your application and how to get your free reproduction print framed will also appear in the Weekend section on Saturday, March 19.

THE TIMES

Goya

TOKEN 6

Enforcing covenants against freehold land

Sentencing guidelines for drug trafficking

Rhone and Another v Stephens (see article)
Before Lord Templeman, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton, Lord Woolf, Lord Lloyd of Berwick and Lord Nolan
[Speeches March 17]

Equity would enforce negative covenants against freehold land but had no power to enforce positive covenants against successors in title of the land.

The House of Lords held in affirming the rule in *Austerberry v Oldham Corporation* (1985) 29 ChD 750 and dismissing an appeal by the plaintiffs, Mr and Mrs R. J. Rhone, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Slynn) (The Times January 21, 1993) which had allowed an appeal by the defendant, Jean Stephens, executrix of the estate of May Ellen Barnard, deceased, formerly of Walford House, Brook, Somerset, from the order of Judge Cottle in Bridgwater County Court that the defendant was bound by a covenant entered into by her predecessor in title to repair part of the roof of Walford House which overhung the plaintiffs' property.

Mr James Munby, QC and Mr John Virgo for the plaintiffs; Mr David Spens for the defendant.

LORD TEMPLEMAN said that the appeal raised the question of the enforceability of positive covenants between owners of freehold estates and involved consideration of the rule in *Austerberry v Oldham Corporation*.

The roof which covered Walford House also covered part of Walford Cottage. Both properties had been in common ownership until a conveyance in 1960, Walford Cottage had been sold.

Clause 2 of the conveyance had the effect, *inter alia*, of conferring and confirming on Walford House the right to be supported by the contiguous Walford Cottage. The conveyance also had the effect of conferring and confirming on Walford Cottage the right to be supported by Walford House.

Clause 3 did not confer any rights on Walford Cottage but by its express terms it appeared to

confer on the owners for the time being of the cottage the right to sue the owner for the time being of Walford House for damages if the roof was not kept wind and watertight.

Since 1960 both properties had been sold. The plaintiffs were now the owners of Walford Cottage. The defendant was the executrix of the last owner of Walford House. The trial judge had ordered the owner of Walford House to pay damages to the owners of Walford Cottage for breach of the covenant contained in clause 3.

Mr Spens said that the covenant had never been breached because the part of the roof which was out of repair belonged to Walford Cottage. Examination of the plans attached to the conveyance, however, showed that the covenant to repair referred to the roof which protected both properties. So upon the true construction of the 1960 conveyance the owner of Walford House was in breach of the covenant to repair.

At common law a person could not be made liable upon a contract unless he was a party to it. As between persons interested in land other than as landlord and tenant, the benefit of a covenant could run with the land at law but not the burden.

Thus clause 3 of the 1960 conveyance, despite its express terms, did not confer on the owner of the time being of Walford Cottage the right at common law to compel the owner for the time being of Walford House to repair the roof or to obtain damages for breach of the covenant to repair. Mr Munby had contended that equity would compel the owner of Walford House to comply with the covenant to repair the roof or to pay damages in lieu.

Equity supplemented but did not contradict the common law. Where freehold land was conveyed without restriction, the conveyance conferred on the purchaser the right to do with the land as he pleased provided that he did not contravene the rights of others or infringe statutory restrictions. The conveyance might, however, impose restrictions which, in favour of the covenantee, deprived the purchaser of some of the rights

inherent in the ownership of unrestricted land.

Equity could prevent or punish the breach of a negative covenant which restricted the user of land or the exercise of other rights in connection with land. Restrictive covenants deprived an owner of a right which he could otherwise exercise. Equity could not compel an owner to comply with a positive covenant entered into by his predecessors in title without flatly contradicting the common law rule that a person could not be made liable upon a contract unless he was a party to it.

In the *Austerberry* case the owners of a site of a road covenanted that they and their successors in title would make the road and keep it in repair. The road was sold to the defendants and it was held that the repair covenant could not be enforced against them.

For over 100 years it had been clear and accepted law that equity would enforce negative covenants against freehold land but had no power to enforce positive covenants against successors in title of the land. To enforce a positive covenant would be to enforce a personal obligation against a person who had not covenanted. To enforce negative covenants was only to treat the land as subject to a restriction.

In 1965 the Report of the Committee on Positive Covenants Affecting Land (Cmd 2719) referred to difficulties caused by the decision in the *Austerberry* case and recommended legislation to provide that positive covenants which related to the use of land and were intended to benefit specified other land should run with the land.

The Law Commission published Working Paper No 36 of 1971 in which it proposed that positive rights should be enforceable as being illogical, uncertain, incomplete and inflexible. The Law Commission Report No 127 (Ch 20), laid before Parliament in 1965, had made recommendations for the reform of the law relating to positive and restrictive obligations and submitted a draft Bill for that purpose. Nothing had been done.

In those circumstances their Lordships had been invited to overrule the decision of the Court of Appeal in the *Austerberry* case. To do so would destroy the distinction between law and equity and convert the rule of equity into a rule of law.

Judicial legislation to overrule the *Austerberry* case would create a number of difficulties, anomalies and uncertainties and affect the rights and liabilities of people who had for over 100 years bought and sold land in the knowledge, imparted at an elementary stage to every student of the law of property, that positive covenants affecting freehold land were not directly enforceable except against the original covenantee.

Parliamentary legislation to deal with the decision in the *Austerberry* case would require careful consideration of the consequences. Moreover, experience with leasehold tenures, where positive covenants were enforceable by virtue of privity of estate, had demonstrated that social injustice could be caused by logic.

Parliament had been obliged to intervene to prevent tenants losing their homes and being saddled with the costs of restoring their original glory buildings which had languished through wars and economic depression for nearly 90 years.

Mr Munby had also sought to persuade their Lordships that the effect of the decision in the *Austerberry* case had been blunted by the "pure principle of benefit and burden" distilled by Sir Robert Megarry, Vice-Chancellor from the authorities in *Tito v Waddell* (No 2) [1977] 1 Ch 109.

His Lordship was not prepared to recognise the "pure principle" that any party deriving any benefit from a conveyance had to accept any burden in the same conveyance. Sir Robert Megarry had said in *Tito v Waddell* (No 2) [1977] 1 Ch 169, "There the defendant's predecessor in title had been granted the right to use the estate roads and sewers and had covenanted to pay a due proportion for their maintenance. It would be held that he could not exercise the rights without paying his costs of ensuring that they could be exercised."

Conditions could be attached to

the exercise of a power in express terms or by implication. *Halshall* was just such a case and his Lordship had no difficulty in wholeheartedly agreeing with the decision. It did not follow that any condition could be rendered enforceable by attaching it to a right nor did it follow that every burden imposed by a conveyance might be enforced by depriving the covenantee's successor in title of every benefit which he enjoyed therefrom.

The condition had to be relevant to the exercise of the right. In *Halshall* there were reciprocal benefits and burdens enjoyed by the users of the roads and sewers. In the present case clause 2 of the 1960 conveyance imposed reciprocal benefits and burdens of support, but clause 3, which imposed an obligation to repair the roof, was an independent provision.

Halshall the defendant could, at least in theory, have chosen between enjoying the right and paying his proportion of the cost or, alternatively, giving up the right and saving his money.

In the present case the owners of Walford House could not in theory or in practice be deprived of the benefit of the mutual rights of support if they failed to repair the roof.

Lord Oliver, Lord Woolf, Lord Lloyd and Lord Nolan agreed.

Solicitors: Gregory Rowcliffe & Milners for Parades, Bridgwater; Almonds, Bridgwater.

Damages for land subsidence

Hepworth Building Products Ltd v British Coal Corporation

Before Lord Justice Ralph Gibson, Lord Justice Farquharson and Lord Justice Beldam
[Judgment March 11]

Compensation under section 2(4) of the Coal Industry Act 1973 for damage to land caused by mining subsidence, meant only compensation for that damage and did not extend to consequential loss.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment when allowing in part the appeal of British Coal Corporation against the decision of the Land Tribunal that Hepworth Building Products Ltd were entitled to compensation.

Mr John Cherryman, QC and David Lloyd Jones for British Coal; Mr T. Peter E. Curry, QC and Mr E. F. R. Whitehead for Hepworth Building Products Ltd.

LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON said that British Coal could either pay compensation or make good the damage with the consent, if asked for, of the person entitled to the compensation.

If British Coal should be slow to carry out the work after electing to do so, or should refuse to carry out the work, then the claimant would have to issue his writ within six years of the happening of the damage to the land in respect of which he claimed unless he could show that the period of limitation should be extended, or that on the facts British Coal had lost the right to limit compensation and had assumed an obligation to do the work or that on the facts he had some other ground of claim.

The option to British Coal under section 2(4) to make good the damage to the reasonable satisfaction of the person entitled to compensation did not require making good in the sense of putting right all defects at whatever cost might be necessary.

The provision did not entitle a claimant to recover compensation for consequential loss such as for disturbance.

Lord Justice Farquharson and Lord Justice Beldam agreed.

Solicitors: Nabarro Nathanson, Doncaster; Flint Bishop & Barnett, Derby.

Regina v Richardson

Regina v Teichner

Regina v Dean

Regina v Tredwin

Before Lord Taylor of Gossforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Popplewell and Mr Justice Tucker
[Judgment March 15]

Sentencing guidelines for abnormal crimes of trafficking in drugs such as cocaine with street values of millions of pounds were given by the Court of Appeal when allowing appeals by four men given sentences ranging from 10 to 25 years.

The appellants had been sentenced at Winchester Crown Court by Mr Justice Schiemann as follows:

Edward George Richardson, aged 36, convicted after a two-month trial on two counts of conspiracy to import cocaine, one of conspiracy to import cannabis and one of assisting another to retain benefits of drug trafficking, received concurrent sentences amounting to 25 years and a confiscation order for £356,779.71.

Anthony Roger Dean, aged 43, on plea of guilty to two counts of conspiracy to import cocaine and one of conspiracy to import cannabis and one of assisting another to retain benefits of drug trafficking, received 20 years and a confiscation order for £39,500.

Anthony Roger Dean, aged 43, on plea of guilty to a count of conspiracy to import cocaine and one of conspiracy to import cannabis and one of assisting another to retain benefits of drug trafficking, received 20 years and a confiscation order for £31,000.

Donald Roy Tredwin, aged 59, on plea of guilty to one count of conspiracy to import cocaine and one of conspiracy to import cannabis and one of assisting another to retain benefits of drug trafficking, received 20 years and a confiscation order for £186,379.

Mr Edward Fitzgerald, who did not appear below, for Robinson; Mr John Travers for Teichner; Mr Stephen Shay, who did not appear below, for Dean; Mr Philip Slinger, who did not appear below, for Tredwin; all counsel assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals; Mr John Spokes, QC and Mr Paul Garlick for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, having dismissed the appeal against conviction, said that the crime of drug trafficking offences, their Lordships had to consider what was the level of the sentences to be imposed for offences of the utmost gravity.

Guidelines were laid down by Lord Lane, sitting as a High Court judge in the Queen's Bench Division so held in open court on March 3 after a hearing in chambers when refusing to make an

order for disclosure against Mr Neil Hyde, a journalist, and INS, his news agency, of the identity of the informant or informants who had provided him with the contents of a confidential report written by the general manager of the Broadmoor Hospital on the subject of two convicted murderers who had escaped from there on December 15 and 16, 1993, respectively.

HIS LORDSHIP said that no important disclosure of information had been made.

Therefore, even if the court had jurisdiction to order disclosure which in his view it had not, an order for disclosure would be refused on that further ground.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the court was not concerned with the question of what was meant by "and upwards".

Mr Fitzgerald had submitted that a sentence in excess of 20 years offended against all principles of proportionality. He based that contention on a comparison with sentences for other serious crimes, such as armed robbery or murder.

In *R v Byrne* (1977) 6 Cr App R 67, 901, Lord Justice Lawton considered the need for some gradation of penalties for grave offences falling short of murder. He said that grave crimes fell into categories. There were

some that were wholly abnormal, their circumstances were horrifying, such as the Great Train Robbery, the "Torture Case" (*R v Richardson*) (1967) 51 Cr App R 381 and terrorist bombings.

They were contrasted with grave but frequent crimes such as bank robberies which, albeit committed with firearms, which Lord Justice Lawton concluded were not abnormal and the maximum total sentence even for more than one such robbery "should not normally be more than 18 years".

However, the scourge of drug trafficking had not at that time plagued this country.

The situation had changed. Not only did hard drugs cause misery and injury to health, which could be life threatening to those who became addicted, but they created a commerce which resulted in a variety of crimes. Addicts frequently resorted to dishonesty to feed their habit of drug addiction. The influence of drugs. Those who profited by dealing in hard drugs, fought, intimidated and even killed to preserve or enhance their evil trade.

Vast resources of the state had to be deployed to prevent or detect importation of supply. Courts were inundated with cases connected with drug taking and drug trafficking.

Accordingly, a massive import of hard drugs worth £50 million in street value, if brought home to offenders, in their Lordships' view could fall into the category of abnormal crimes described by Lord Justice Lawton.

Their Lordships' attention had been drawn to two recent cases: *R v Garner* (unreported, March 1, 1991) involving a single consignment of 400kg of cocaine on a plea of guilty the appellant was sentenced to 22 years and on appeal the court reduced the sentence to 16 years. The case was strongly relied on by the present appellants.

However, in *R v Scamaroni* (1992) 13 Cr App R (S) 702 the court, presided over by Lord Lane, upheld a sentence on a plea of guilty of 20 years for importing 20kg of cocaine which had been committed in a criminal enterprise including the use of diplomatic paraphernalia by a senior Brazilian diplomat to facilitate the co-

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

BROADMOOR HOSPITAL

(An Administrative Receivership)

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IN THE HIGH COURT

CHANCERY DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF

THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

Section 177 of the Companies Act 1985

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THE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 18 1994

8 guidelines for trafficking

Court of Appeal

Disclosure order not necessary

Property Design, Property Maintenance, Estates & Valuation services

ENFIELD

Public Company

MEMORANDUM

Answers from page 40

MENSEFUL

MENNONITE

AVODIRE

GARBANZO

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

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Time to ensure victory as supporters dream of heights

In four of the last five years there has been something vital resting on England's last match of the season, a grand slam or possible championship title. There is still the championship to compete for tomorrow, but in a perfect world, the England v Wales match at Twickenham would be a head-to-head grand slam decider where the winner takes all. The English players wish it was.

We blew our chance against Ireland in a match in which we let ourselves down and, as a result, we will have

to settle for a victory over Wales to subdue their revival. It will not be easy, and those who are talking about England winning the championship through beating Wales by more than 16 points are living in cloud-cuckoo-land.

Nobody in the England camp is seriously discussing that. We must ensure we beat Wales — the score will have to take care of itself.

Wales are too good a side for us to be distracted by that. What we do want to do is make amends for the poor performance we gave in our last match at Twickenham,

against Ireland. An England v Wales game is always something special, and this in particular since, in addition to the championship, it is the hundredth between the nations and the Queen will be there.

The England camp does not regard it as essential that we win the match by 16 points. Personally, I do not care whether we score 15 or 16 points — the win is the important thing. If we achieve that, but Wales lift the championship trophy just on points, I have a strong feeling that few Welsh men



Rob Andrew, the England stand-off half, on where the emphasis lies in the five nations' decider

will be smiling. They would be able to say they won the trophy, but it will not mean anything if England have beaten them before they collect it.

I do not need to remind my colleagues that, unless we play with the discipline and power we showed in Paris, then we will probably lose to Wales. They have had two

substantial victories, albeit both in Cardiff, but they are a side now playing with confidence and, at this level, that is often the difference between sides. Ireland have reminded us that Twickenham is far from invincible.

The win over France, however, has given us great confidence that we can rediscover the form we showed

against New Zealand. It proved that victory over the All Blacks was not a one-off. We still have a lot of fine tuning to do, and we remain a team in transition, but the ability is undoubtedly there.

England's trouble is that our supporters have come to expect us to win every match. Most teams in transition get years to put things right, but we are expected to carry on winning as if nothing has happened within the team. The fact that there are nine new players does not seem to count.

We hope to score more tries

against Wales, but there will be no mad rush to throw the ball all over Twickenham. We have not scored a try for a year and that is a problem, but it is not because we are not trying to score them. Several factors are preventing us from scoring tries at present, but I have no doubt they will come.

The Welsh claim they are coming to Twickenham to score tries and that is fine — let them try — but, if you analyse the way they have been playing this season, they have not really thrown the ball about that much. Indeed,

there is a myth about them throwing the ball around, although I am the first to acknowledge the talents of many of their players.

England are still trying to slot together the pieces of this new team, so a win would be most welcome — three out of four in the championship would not be a bad achievement for a new side. If we won the title, it would cap the season magnificently, but simply winning this match and continuing the building of a new team for the World Cup remains our priority.

Interview by Peter Bills

Pears forced to pull out as injury jinx reappears

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

DAVID Pears, his return to rugby union in 1994 lasting no more than four games, withdrew yesterday from the England team to play Wales at Twickenham tomorrow, the deciding match of the five nations' championship this season and the hundredth match between the countries.

Pears, 26, the Harlequins full back who played in the 18-14 defeat of France on March 5, has added an ill-timed hamstring strain to the melancholy list of jaw, back, groin, hand and knee injuries that have limited his rugby over the last two years. His place passes to Ian Hunter, of Northampton.

Pears' fragility must cast doubt on whether he can survive on the hard grounds of England, which will encounter tour in South Africa this year and in the World Cup next year — assuming the events take place. Yesterday, Newport pulled out of a five-match visit to South Africa in May because their players' safety could not be guaranteed. It will be Hunter's first

international match in his club position of full back, after winning four caps and being picked as a British Isles player on the right wing. At the start of this season, having recovered from a dislocated shoulder sustained in the Lions' first tour match in New Zealand, Hunter, 25, felt he should be considered as a full back only; now, he has the chance to prove it.



Pears: injury-plagued

The reshuffle restores Tony Underwood to the wing, for his eighth cap, and brings Jonathan Callard back to the replacement's bench for the final match of Geoff Cooke's management career. It leaves England with little goal-kick support for Rob Andrew, though the stand-off half's display in Paris suggested he does not need it.

Were Andrew to be injured, either Hunter would be re-



Moore, whose ferocity typifies the fighting spirit of an England team under fire for its inability to entertain

Moore defends England's style

By DAVID MILLER

IT MATTERS not what international team game it is — and the same is partially true of individual sports — but some of the time you have to be prepared to scuffle. Sport always provides magic of a sort, simply because it is theatre without knowing the outcome, but too seldom is it the magic we, off the field, would like it to be. I grew up in the era of Trevor Bailey and Billy Wright, whose prime function was to make it insufferably difficult for the other side to win. Then we had Nobby Stiles, hero-villain of the 1966 World Cup triumph. And now we have Brian Moore.

Rob Andrew may be the England rugby team's tactical linchpin at stand-off half, his brilliant, relentless kicking and reluctance to free the ball to his backs causing almost more argument and anguish than back-to-backs. Yet Moore, whose toothless ferocious smile is an echo of Stiles, somehow personifies the morale of a team controlled by the antipathy of so much public opinion.

England's team goes into tomorrow's five nations' decider at home to Wales surrounded by an aura of extraordinary reservation from even their own supporters, never mind self-righteous opponents and armchair critics. Rugby, so much a game decided by error, has always been prone to conversation that was much cleverer than the play, and Moore remains unbowed by the criticism.

"Of course there's some resentment within the squad," he said this week, as England, tense but calm, try to concentrate on realities during the preparation at Petersham. "In the last four games we've lost one, by one point, and over four years our cricket or soccer teams would have loved to have had our record of results. In that time, we've played a lot of exciting rugby, but we've never resolved the argument of efficiency v entertainment."

Moore believes that the cultural-sociological circumstances under which England traditionally have played impose a limitation upon their style and performance; that it is more difficult emotionally to wind up an England side than it is any of their main rivals, New Zealand, France... or Wales.

"One of our problems," Moore says, "is our natural English reserve. It is not accepted that we display overt aggression, at least not by some of the press and the rugby establishment. New Zealand or France can be termed streetwise, and that's more acceptable, and expected, from them. But we have to conform to standards of behaviour, the 'it's-not-cricket' school, which in effect is unfair."

In other words, England are expected to exhibit the right attitude, to play as if by instinct, and not to try too hard. In Moore's opinion, the public wants the team to be Gower rather than Border. "They don't want us to be dogs."

Yet anyone who has played at Lord's,

Price seeks dual prize

FROM MEL WEBB IN SINTRA, PORTUGAL

A PUTTING lesson from his coach carried Philip Price one step closer to achieving a double ambition as he hit the best round of his career to take a one-stroke lead in the Portuguese Open at Penha Longa yesterday.

Price, 27, who had an eight-birdie 64 to lead on seven under par, ahead of Cosentino Rocca, of Italy, with Mike Clayton, of Australia, and Paul Eales a further shot behind, has a double target in mind — a £155,000 house on the outskirts of his native town of Pontypridd, and a reclaimed place in the Wales team in the Alfred Dunhill and World Cups at the end of the season. The £50,000 for the winner here would set him on his way to both domestic and professional bliss.

Price played in both of the big-money cup competitions in 1991, when Wales were

fourth in the Dunhill Cup and joint second in the World Cup. The inspiration, and the meal ticket, in both events was Ian Woosnam, and Price, who said modestly that he just "tagged along behind", reckons he picked up an extra £60,000 that season due largely to Woosnam. He is looking for the chance to tag along behind his compatriot again.

He attributed his improved form to a putting lesson from Dennis Sheehy, his coach, who said he was collapsing his left elbow on impact, which is nowhere near as painful as it sounds, but was sending the ball in every direction but the right one. The cure was simplicity itself. Keep the left arm close to the chest, Sheehy counselled, and the rest is easy. 26 putts proved it.

As the putts kept dropping, Price was reminded of the four-footer that got away on

the 72nd hole in the European Open at East Sussex National last September. Sunk, it would have meant a bogey and outright second place to Gordon Brand Jr. Missed, it left him sharing second with Roman Rafferty and cursing the loss of nearly £15,000.

Rocca, who competes in his first Masters next month, played the last nine holes in 30, including an eagle and four birdies. He did it with unfamiliar clubs, too, his original set having gone astray on his return home to Milan from the United States. If he gets his No 1 weapons back, he will be unstoppable.

EARLY FIRST-ROUND SCORES (68 and Ireland unless noted): 64: P Price, 65: C Rocca (68), M Clayton (Pus), P Eales, 67: G Sheehy, H Clark, G Brand, J S Stanger, 66: J Van de Velde (P), G Dr, S Stanger (Ire), S Mulvaney (US), S Bowring (US), G Adair, 65: D J Russell, G Eales, G J Brand, L Westwood, E Romero (Arg), J Robinson, R Fotherby, M Thompson (P), S Macdonald, J Cornish (Sg), P Lunn, G Turner (62), P Tervahauta (US), S Borna, I Gledhill (Sg).

Old foes renew rivalry

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN PHOENIX

THEY were rivals in college, then they fought out a titanic final in the US amateur championship, they are now rookies on the rough, tough US professional tour and yesterday Annika Sorenstam and Vicki Goetze were paired together in the first round of the Standard Register Ping tournament at Moon Valley country club in Phoenix, Arizona.

There is not, and never will be, a heavy-weight contest. They are not very tall, not very big, more tot versus tot than Ali versus Frazier, but they pack enough competitive punch to be a sizable force in due course.

Yesterday, out early on a soft St Patrick's morning with not even the hint of a breeze, it was Sorenstam, the 23-year-old Swede who was rookie of the year in Europe last year, who settled first. She had to qualify for this event, even

though she finished fourth last year — it was one of three outings in America, not enough to count as a season — but started with two birdies and was still two under par with five holes to play.

Goetze, a 21-year-old Georgian, who just had the better of Sorenstam in that US amateur final, has struggled in her three professional events so far. She has missed the cut twice and tied for 72nd place in Hawaii.

"It's different," she said, "and it's more difficult because I haven't had the rip-roaring start I'd hoped for." Nevertheless, she was well in touch with Sorenstam at one under par.

Yet the rookies were being eclipsed by the form of Caroline Keegi, a tall, cheerful soul who was a Curtis Cup player as an amateur but has yet to win in six years as a profes-

sional. Resplendent in green and white stripes, she must have avoided the green bagels at breakfast — at least the coffee had remained strong and black, unlike the St Patrick's Day beer — for she hit her approach at the 1st to three feet and carried on from there. She was six under par with six holes to play.

Laura Davies, the biggest hitter of them all, who missed the cut in Tucson last week, was also well in contention. Out in 35, one under par, she hit a three-iron to 15 feet for an eagle three at the 10th to move to three under, the best of the early-morning Europeans.

Pam Wright, the diminutive Scot from Aboyne, was one under par after seven holes but she missed from 2½ feet to bogey the 17th, her eighth hole, and drove into the water at the 18th and took six, a double bogey.

The diagram illustrates the experimental design. It shows a sequence of events: a stimulus (a word) is presented, a response (a word) is generated, and the response is evaluated. The response is then used as the stimulus for the next trial.

Hunting for trivia in the land of jungle and jaguars

Freud to write about cricket from Guyana? Surely not. Freud writes about fringe sporting events: tiddlywinks, curling, orienteering. There is nothing "fringe" about England v West Indies.

Personally, I am not too sure about that. Last time England played a Test match in Georgetown, they did not. It rained throughout the five days — also on the rest day — and the most knowledgeable exponents of the game, tacticians of high renown, men who could read a pitch, tell a googly from a wrong 'un and explain the difference between backward point and short third man, were combing the city in search of trivia.

They relayed the local witchdoctors' meteorological forecasts and wrote that fish swam in the flooded outfield, when they really wanted to criticise Graham Gooch for going into the match with only one spinner. They could not substantiate their criticism because not a ball was bowled.

With me in Georgetown, there shall be in-depth trivia. Readers will learn what kind of fish swim around the boundary, their length and their weight, how they should be cooked, what beverage might best accompany such a dish.

The last West Indies Test match I covered was in Kingston, Jamaica, in the 1960s. Cowdrey captained the team. Milburn was there, did not like blacks, had to be watched and apologised for. Boycott was a loner, dedicated, humourless, dour. I sat beside him in the pavilion during a long England partnership and, after an hour, asked whether he thought the wicket would take spin. He said: "I'm concentrating on cricket." That was it.

Tom Graveney and I played squash, a game at which he

excelled, and I took Robin Hobbs out to dinner one evening and learnt how it was being a leg-break bowler, steadily waiting for the call, which seemed to depend less on personal skill than the weather, the form of opposing batsmen and, on tour, the fitness of his colleagues.

Basil D'Oliveira and Fred Titmus became good friends but, as I was the sole journalist from the paper for which I

was some unrest among the crowd and a trigger-happy police chief ordered the release of mustard gas. The first burst landed by the press box and, with stinging throat and streaming eyes, I made a dash for the pavilion... which was where the second canister exploded. Seeking refuge behind the first door I could find, I spent the next ten minutes in the ladies' lavatory with three women — one of whom sent me Christmas cards for many years.

My Times atlas states that Guyana, alone among the countries of the world, is a co-operative republic. Perhaps they give stamps. The country is the size of Britain, has the population of Birmingham and is 85 per cent benign jungle: no leeches but a substantial population of vampire bats, jaguars, ant-eaters who are shy and tarantula that look like many-fingered black, furry hands and cause natives of the relentlessly dark green rain forest to sleep in hammocks.

In the capital, many houses are built on stilts — partly because this looks good on postcards, also to keep them above the flood water that swamped the Test ground on Tuesday but was all better yesterday. The local smell is of molasses from the rum factory, local flowers hibiscus and orchid, and they speak Amerindian, Portuguese and English. The beer of Guyana is Bush.

So much from the guidebook. Tomorrow's "Freud on Friday" — the title might have to go into short hibernation — will tell it like it is: come to you from the land of a thousand rivers where England must have their best chance of avoiding defeat against a side that, if this is not oversimplistic, plays cricket better than England do at present. Goodness, I hope I am wrong.



FREUD ON FRIDAY

worked, I only wrote about John Edrich's flashing cover drives and Ken Barrington's eagle-eyed hooks, John Snow's exceptional spells of defensive bowling and Jim Parks's missed stumping opportunity. I wrote of that in some detail. Rather as I now watch fat men to see if they have achieved more successful bants than I, so does anyone who keeps wicket examine with a special care the antics of his fellow keepers.

I gave up keeping wicket in 1972 after the Lord's Taverners' game against a Yorkshire XI. I had executed a lightning leg-side stumping and, at the end of the innings, a member came up to me and said: "Well played. I particularly appreciated the sporting chance you gave the batsman of regaining his crease." In that Jamaican Test, there



England will need similarly stylish strokes, a flowing cover drive from Edrich, their former Test player, if they are to overcome West Indies in Guyana

Hudson prospers before running into trouble

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN CAPE TOWN

IN THE first Test match, it was Australia's batsmen who needlessly ran themselves out. Yesterday, in the second Test here at Newlands, South Africa's did so, which curtailed their progress after they had won the toss and opted to bat.

At close of play they were 237 for five, of which Andrew Hudson, from Natal, had contributed 102, his second Test century.

How could there possibly be a more wonderful way for a cricketer to celebrate his birthday than by making a hundred against Australia, as Hudson did now. It was a reward, I am assured, for decency, apart from soundness of method, for he is a

devout and modest and altogether excellent fellow. The birthday was his 29th.

Hudson's Test career began with an innings of 163 against West Indies at Bridgetown, a remarkable effort in itself, and he has batted staunchly since, seldom a Test match having passed without his making a half-century. On his showing yesterday, he could hold his own with anyone as a driver through the covers.

So who can Hudson be compared with? He is much more an Atherton than a Smith, but a better match might be Tim Robinson, of Nottinghamshire. That he and Gary Kirsten, his opening partner, should both have been run out, when playing very well, rather spoils South Africa's day.

It is a slowish, lowish pitch,

and after making 66 for no wicket in the first 13 overs of the match and then going into tea at 186 for three, something a good deal better than the final score seemed to be in prospect.

Taylor is back in the Australian side as Slater's opening partner and McGrath has been preferred to May. With South Africa standing by the side that won in Johannesburg, the only specialist spinner in the match, on a pitch which has so far had little to offer the fast bowlers, is Warne.

It might not be supposed from this that much of Australia's success over the last year has been due to them fielding two spinners as part of a balanced attack.

For the first hour, the Australians seemed to be doing

nothing more than going through the motions, nobody more than a chastened Hughes. He, McDermott and McGrath neither bowled with any life, nor did they find any. The first 13 overs produced, respectively, 3, 4, 10, 5, 7, 2, 6, 4, 6, 7, 2, 7 and 3 runs. Not until Steve Waugh came on, after 70 minutes, was there a maiden over.

Hudson and Gary Kirsten drove, hooked and cut with almost unrelenting ease. More than once, though, they could have done with a prod between the wickets — Hudson, particularly, is a decidedly stately mover — and it was a run-out that gave Australia the break they needed.

Kirsten played McGrath into the off side, off the back foot, and delayed long enough before going for a single for

Slater to run in from wide mid-on, pick up the ball and hurl himself at the stumps before Kirsten made his ground. Four overs later, Cronje played on to McGrath, trying to flat-bat a shortish ball through the covers.

When Wessels was caught at second slip soon after lunch, off one of the more awkward balls of the day, South Africa were 100 for three and faltering. But Hudson was undeterred and Peter Kirsten took good care to play himself in.

The second run-out, in the second over after tea, was the result of a fine spot by Steve Waugh at cover and Hudson's momentary hesitation in answering Kirsten's call.

All day, it seemed, South Africa missed runs that were there and tried to take others that were not.

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings	
A C Hudson run out	102
G Kirsten run out	29
W J Cronje b McGrath	2
M C Wessels c M E Waugh b McDermott	11
P N Kirsten not out	22
J N Rhodes b McGrath	5
B M McLaren not out	16
Extras (b, lb, nb)	10
Total (5 wickets)	227
10 J Richardson, C R Matthews, P S de Villiers and A A Donald to bat.	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-71, 2-78, 3-100, 4-189, 5-198.	
BOWLING: McDermott 13-1-42-1; Hughes 13-1-41-0; McGrath 21-2-63-2; G P Waugh 9-3-20-0; Warne 25-4-42-0; M E Waugh 6-2-12-0; Border 3-2-8-0.	
AUSTRALIA: M A Taylor, M J Slater, D C Bruna, M E Waugh, K A R Border, S R Waugh, R A Healy, S K Warne, M G Hughes, R J McDermott, G D McGrath. Umpires: K G Lakerberg (South Africa) and D R Shepherd (England).	

Spirited Butler on medal hunt

BY RICHARD EATON

STEVE Butler will extend his international career by three months after finishing his last All England badminton championship with a 15-10, 15-7 defeat by Rashid Sidek, the Commonwealth champion, in the last 16 of the Yonex-sponsored event at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham yesterday. Butler required medical attention on Wednesday night after collapsing at the finish of his wonderful win over the 1992 All England champion Liu Jun, but, despite his tiredness, he produced a spirited performance again yesterday.

So encouraged is Butler by his form of the past three days that he plans to go on to the Commonwealth Games in Victoria in August. This gives him the chance to end his 12-year international career with medals at both the European Championships next month and in Canada. His spirit, his

courage and his dedication should be an example to an England squad that is not performing to its potential. Butler's decision forces him to delay immersing himself fully into his coaching and marketing career.

Butler, from Warwickshire, said the gamble of moving the All England outside London for the first time in its 95-year history was justified. "The facilities are so superior," he said.

The facilities are undoubtedly superior, but image is important in maintaining tradition. Atmosphere is also important, and regarding this, the move should prove successful. The NIA is superior in the flexibility of its presentation; yesterday a curtain cut the arena from eight courts to four. Today the arena will be further reduced to create an intimate atmosphere in the shape of an amphitheatre.

Cushion seats instead of plastic ones make a big difference to atmosphere, as well as comfort, a claim which attendance for the first two days support. On Wednesday an increase of 1,000 on the corresponding Wembley attendance of last year was registered, whilst yesterday's attendance of 3,500 was an increase of about 40 per cent on the figure of last year.

The Badminton Association of England believes its gamble has paid off.

Foreman ready to provide next challenge for Bruno

Srikumar Sen sees a lucrative future ahead as Britain's favourite heavyweight returns

Frank Bruno is back on the track of a fourth world title event and big money. By disposing of Jesse Ferguson in 2min 22sec at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, on Wednesday, he proved he has suffered no ill-effects, mentally or physically, from the beating he took from Lennox Lewis last October, and, having picked up £200,000 for his encounter with Ferguson, he is ready for his next easy touch and his next million.

George Foreman could be that man, Bruno's promoter, Mickey Duff, said yesterday. Bruno could pick up £1 million from that bout, which, according to Duff, could gross £6 million. Duff said yesterday he had been approached by one of Foreman's advisers for a match with Bruno, but had not, as yet, spoken to Bruno.

Duff thought a bout with Foreman would be far more prestigious than one with the winner of the World Boxing Organisation match between Michael Benn and Herbie Hyde tomorrow at Millwall and could make him much more money.

While Bruno ponders his next move, Ferguson's future was yesterday far more clear-cut as he featured in the opening arguments of a trial in New York against Ray Mercer, the American heavyweight contender. Mercer is charged with offering Ferguson a bribe of \$100,000 to throw their fight while it was in progress at Madison

Square Garden on February 6 last year.

Roslynn Mankopf, an assistant district attorney in New York, said Mercer, the 1988 Olympic super-heavyweight gold medal-winner, was trying to buy his way to a million-dollar payday and a shot at Riddick Bowe's world championship belt. It is alleged that Mercer propositioned his opponent during the third round of their ten-round contest, although Mercer's attorney, Dominick Amorosa, said his client's constant patter during the fight was nothing more than "trash talk" meant to throw off Ferguson.

Ferguson, who went on to win on points and earned

\$10,000, is expected to be the trial's star witness. Mercer, 31, faces up to seven years in prison if convicted.

Foreman would certainly be a more substantial opponent in every way, than the overweight Ferguson, but the 46-year-old former world heavyweight champion would also want a substantial part of the money to come out of retirement simply to be an "opponent" for Bruno. When Foreman gave up the ring to start in a television sitcom series, he said: "I'm going to miss the training, the people, the cameras, but I'm sure not going to miss getting my lip busted."

Ferguson's performance against Bruno was criticised by Harry Carpenter, who, in his post-fight interview with Bruno, said that Ferguson was not in good enough shape and did not acquit himself well. Bruno disagreed sharply, claiming Ferguson was a very experienced opponent.

It is unlikely that Bruno will make a decision on whom he meets next until he has seen the outcome of the bout between Benn and Hyde. Even if Duff does not recommend challenging the winner of that bout, Bruno has said he could go against Duff's wishes if the money offered by Bob Arum, the American promoter of the Millwall show, is good.



Bruno: positive

Whitaker vies for £40,000 bonus

MICHAEL Whitaker, the world No 1 show jumper, will receive a £40,000 bonus if he wins the Volvo World Cup qualifier at the Paris International Horse Show on Sunday (Jenny MacArthur writes). The show, which begins today at the Palais Omnisports in Paris-Bercy, is the last in the grand slam series involving Berlin, London, Brussels and Paris. Whitaker and Franke Sloothak, of Germany, the winners in London and Berlin, are both eligible for the bonus offered for success in any two of the four World Cup qualifiers.

Whitaker last week won the Dortmund grand prix on his European bronze medal-winner, Everest Midnight Madness. His British rivals this weekend include his older brother, John, whose horse, the 17-year-old gelding, Everest Milton, made a successful return to the circuit last week after a nine-month absence through injury.

Both the Whitakers and Nick Skelton, another British contender in Paris, have qualified for the final, to be held in Holland next month.

Medals elude Britain

PARALYMPICS: Great Britain had another disastrous day at the Winter Games in Lillehammer yesterday, losing 2-0 to Canada in the sledge hockey bronze medal play-off and having only two men qualify for the final stages of the games, both of whom finished last in their classes (Alix Ramsay writes).

Goals from Dean Midway and Shawn Matheson, in the second and third periods respectively, ended Britain's hopes in the hockey. On the slopes, Matt Stockford, Brian Harding and Jim Barker all crashed in the sit-ski classes, and Mike Hammond and Graham Nugent failed to qualify for the second run in their respective classes. Only Jon Morris, in the LW2 category, and Ed Suckling, in the LW1s, made the cut but neither made any impression on the final placings.

Scotland recover

BOWLS: Scotland, hoping to win the Hilton Trophy for the fourth time in succession, beat England 125-113 in the home international series at Rushcliffe, Nottingham, yesterday, and need only to draw with Wales today to retain the British team title. Although the result itself was hardly a surprise, the manner by which it was won was a surprise. The Scots overran England's 52 over the last 24 hours, scoring 95 shots to England's 52 over the last 24 hours. Gos Blair's rink proved to be the match-winners, overhauling Ste Hahn's team 32-14.

Pakistan hit stride

HOCKEY: Pakistan beat Great Britain 4-1 as the Champions' Trophy tournament began in Lahore yesterday, although two late goals gave their victory a more emphatic look than they deserved. After a fine start, in which Kamran Ashraf and Muhammad Shahbaz both scored, Britain came back into the game and Garcia reduced the arrears with a brilliant flick from a short corner. In the 58th minute, Muhammad Shahbaz scored before, three minutes from the end, Kamran made it 4-1.

Pendrigh retains form

REAL TENNIS: Nigel Pendrigh, of Petworth, joined an exclusive group of Britons when he won the United States amateur championship in Philadelphia, beating Morris Clothier, the American No 1, in a five-set final. He then overcame jetlag to win his opening match of the George Wimpey British amateur championship in impressive style, justifying his ranking as No 2 seed in beating David Reid. A hard-hitting left-hander, Pendrigh's speed of foot and retrieving powers proved decisive.

Cooke climbs rankings

TABLE TENNIS: Alan Cooke, who won the silver medal at the Commonwealth championships in Hyderabad two months ago, has climbed two places to No 2 in the English national ranking list issued yesterday. Cooke, who was also runner-up in the national championships earlier this month, thus occupied his highest position for more than two years, behind Chen Xinhua, who remains at No 1 after regaining the national title. Lisa Lomas, who regained the women's national title, keeps her top spot.

THE TIMES



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Starting today and continuing over the next four weeks, The Times, in association with Original Jazz Classics, is offering readers the opportunity to collect four free CDs of great jazz music. The four recordings cover four areas of jazz music — great jazz groups, saxophonists, pianists and guitarists — and form a jazz library anyone would be proud to own.

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If you missed the coupon in The Times last Saturday, March 12, you can still collect your free CD as we will print another coupon this Saturday, with full details of how to get your second free CD: The Great Jazz Saxes.

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Results, page 36

FRIDAY MARCH 18 1994

England make strong recovery after poor start

Atherton takes control

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN GEORGETOWN, GUYANA

ENGLAND'S prospects in the second Test, and effectively in the series, survived a palpitating start at Bourda yesterday before thriving on a decision by Richie Richardson, the West Indies captain, which may kindly be called eccentric. Granted their craving to bat first, England were masterfully led by their captain to a position of early control similar to the one they squandered in Kingston last month. Michael Atherton, in the best batting form of his life, made a chanceless century in under five hours and shared a Georgetown record third-wicket stand of 171 with Robin Smith, whose first substantial contribution to the series ended shortly before tea. By then, England were proceeding with enough comfort to make Richardson squirm.

ENGLAND: First Innings
M A Atherton not out (84mins, 170 balls, 10 fours)
A J Stewart to Walsh (5mins, 4 balls)
M R Ramprakash bow to Walsh (5mins, 6 balls)
R A Smith c Lara b K C G Benjamin 84 (67mins, 150 balls, 11 fours, 1 six)
G A Hick not out (4mins, 4 balls)
Extras (no 1, nb 4) 3
Total (21 wickets) 174
S P Thompson, J G Russell, C G Lewis, I D K Salisbury, A R C Fraser, A P Richardson best.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-2, 3-173.
BOWLING: Ambrose 10-1-30-0; Walsh 14-3-37-2; K C G Benjamin 9-1-34-1; W K M Benjamin 12-5-31-0; Adams 3-1-10-0; Chandrapaul 10-2-31-0.
WEST INDIES: D L Haynes, C G Lara, R B Richardson, K L T Adair, S Chandrapaul, J C Adams, J R Murray, W K M Benjamin, C E L Ambrose, K C G Benjamin, C A Walsh.
Umpires: C R Duncan (West Indies) and S Venkateshwar (India).

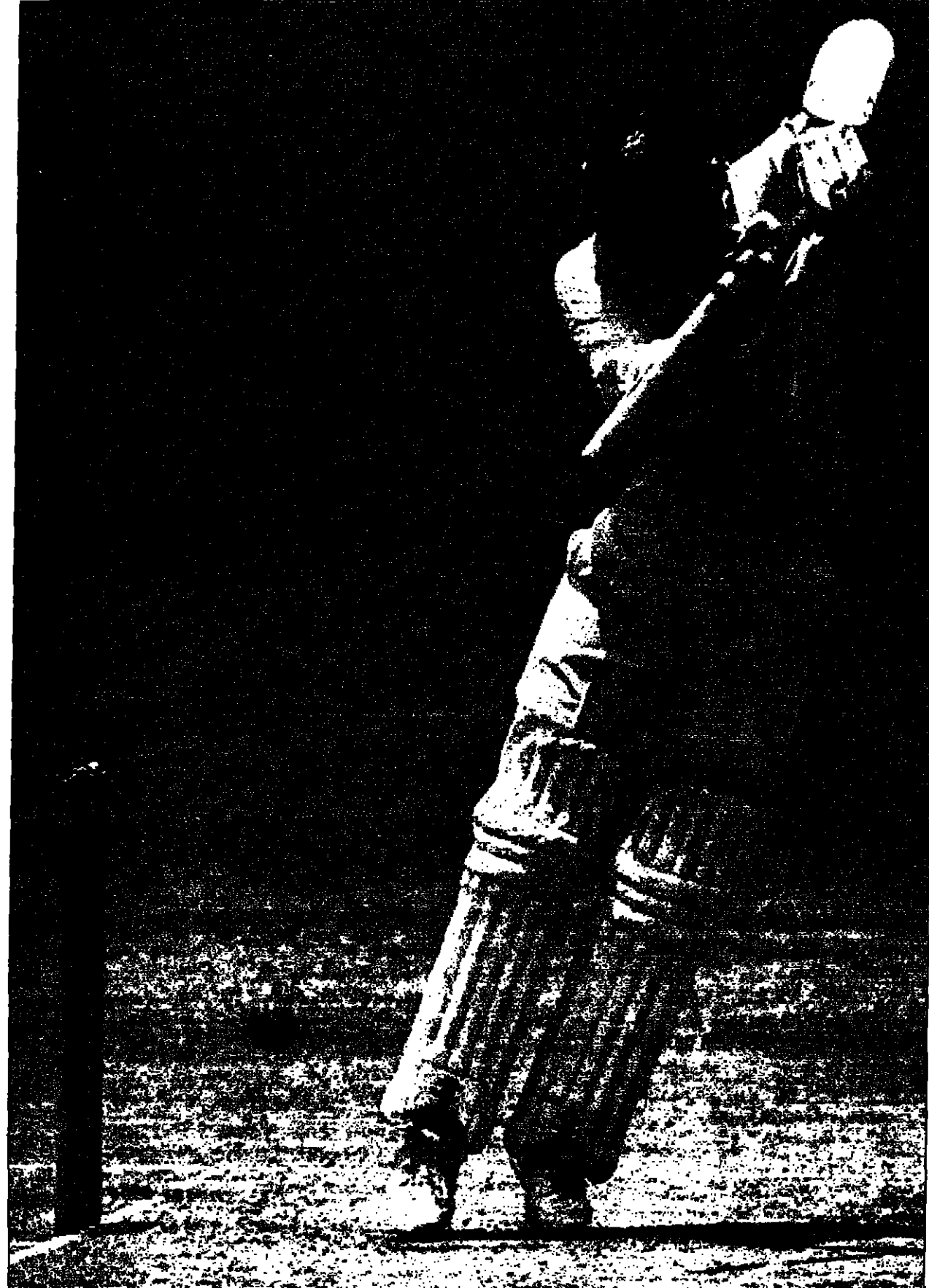
When Richardson marched from the field after winning the toss, declining to tell either Atherton or a television interviewer what he planned to do, the only plausible interpretation was that he was employing a mild form of psychological suspense.

At Georgetown, where he has three times had a double century in his sights, it was inconceivable that he should bowl first. And yet, to the gratitude and personal profit of Atherton, he chose that course, donating to England the opportunity to dictate a game that they must not lose.

Richardson knew, of course, that England had predictably ducked the challenge of including two spin bowlers and omitted Philip Tufnell, timidity which could cost them the match. He must also have been counting on help for his quick bowlers from any residual dampness in this hastily prepared pitch. When England lost two wickets for two runs, vindication of sorts was at hand.

Insertion, however, remained the act of a supreme optimist, a matter which Atherton and Smith now began to put into perspective. The pitch was slow and accommodating, aside from occasional low bounce, and in hot sunshine — rare in itself when cricket comes to Guyana — these were unattractive conditions for bowling fast.

Even before lunch, West Indies had used two slow bowlers, but neither Jimmy Adams nor Shivnarine Chandrapaul were accom-



Atherton plays a ball from Ken Benjamin confidently off the back foot at Bourda yesterday

plished enough to exert control. Chandrapaul's presence, instead of Phil Simmons, was a surprise and a delight, not least to the Georgetown public. There was only a sparse crowd when play began but the appearance on the scoreboard of the local hero's name brought whoops of delight and, magically, a rapid increase in numbers both of paying spectators and those poised precariously in the trees outside the ground.

At 19, Chandrapaul is the youngest man to play for West Indies since Elquemedo Willet in 1973 and the first of Asian extraction for more than a decade. But although the value of his leg breaks influenced his selection here, it will be his left-handed batting on which he will be judged. By coincidence, it was 40 years ago this month that another, teenage left-hander made his

West Indies debut. His name was Sobers.

England's early stumble was caused not by Curry Ambrose, who continues to bowl innocuously by his own lofty standards, but by Courtney Walsh, regarded by the opposing camps as hero and villain of the Kingston Test. His first seven balls of the match accounted for Alec Stewart and Mark Ramprakash, wickets he greeted with that now familiar, finger-wagging circle of the cover region.

Stewart, whose aggressive instincts must always permit the odd early indiscretion, can only narrowly have survived an appeal for leg-before when Walsh's third ball kept low. He treated the next as if uncertain of the bounce and dragged it onto his off stump off bat and pad. Ramprakash, off the mark first ball, man-

aged only one more single before driving unconvincingly at Walsh's inswinger and falling leg-before.

This presented a stiff examination for Smith, whose form had been considered one of the few assets England could take as read on this trip. Until yesterday, he had struggled, batting without his usual conviction and lacking the transparent single-mindedness of old. In the past week, however, Smith has spent his time wisely, focusing on this crucial game. The benefit was plain to see.

He was dropped on 27, a miss which had Brian Lara banished from the slips. Otherwise, he batted with great judgment for 28 minutes until, on 94, he clipped Ken Benjamin off his toes rather too confidently and was taken with relief by Lara at backward square leg.

If Smith's innings was a reassuring return of authority, Atherton's was a continuation. Since this tour began, he has batted with the composure of one relishing the added onus of leadership. His front-foot tendency here was instructive, for it was only lack of bounce which posed a threat, and when the quick men pushed him back, he countered them resolutely, body in line and bat perpendicular.

His half-century was his fourth in successive Tests since taking over the captaincy but his mission was to make his first century in three years and 20 Test matches. It came, after some nervous moments in the nineties, with a drive for two off Ken Benjamin and Atherton ecstatically threw both arms aloft.

Clement Freud, page 38
Hudson prospers, page 38

The Fellow passes with flying colours

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE FELLOW yesterday became the first French-trained horse to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup — and no victory in the 70-year history of the prestigious steeplechase has been more deserved.

After being beaten by the narrowest possible margin, a short head, in 1991 and 1992, the nine-year-old finished fourth last year and his chances of landing the most coveted National Hunt title seemed to have drifted away.

However, as the closing stages of yesterday's feature race unfolded, The Fellow jumped into the lead at the final fence and in the long climb to the winning post he dug deep to erase the disappointments of yesterday. Jodami, the 6-4 favourite, snapped at his heels but had to settle for second place, a length-and-a-half away. Young Hustler, who led for much of the way, was four lengths further back in third.

In a sport where the fates are often cruel and effort does not automatically ensure reward, justice had been seen to be done in triumph style.

"Vive The Fellow. Vive le France," boomed the race-course commentator in his best public school French. The crowd which surrounded the winner's enclosure was as quick as ever to seize the importance of a victory for a horse who has always had a special place in the affections of British racing fans, having twice won the King George VI Chase.

"At last," Francois Downen, the successful trainer from Chantilly, said. "It is a great, great pleasure. I love Cheltenham; it is a mystery and it is fantastic to hear that crowd for the last furlong. It is something you don't find anywhere else in the world. Maybe the Romans were doing it in the arenas, but only here do we get it now. It is very impressive and I get very emotional when I hear it."

Wearing a sprig of shamrock in his lapel, he joked: "Last year I said I'd never manage to win this race. I say thank you to St Patrick! I wish this experience to every trainer in the world, to win it out of your border is even better. I am sure this will encourage more French runners to come to England."

The Fellow, who attracted

one bet of £10,000 to win £70,000, joins Mandarin as the only horse to have won both the Grand Steeplechase de Paris and the Cheltenham Gold Cup. He is owned by the Marquessa de Moratalla, who was unable to attend yesterday due to a bridge tournament in Paris.

you try and do better than you have done before. You are thinking more and you try harder," he said afterwards. "Winning the Gold Cup is like winning the world championship. All the world knows about the Gold Cup, the biggest race in the world for steeplechasers."

"The Fellow was blinkers which helped this year. I was twice beaten by a nose and so I was worried all the way to the post."

The irony of yesterday's result was not lost on book-makers, who stood to lose a fortune last year when The Fellow was sent off the heaviest-backed favourite on record. "Last year he would have cost us a fortune. This year he has saved us from paying one out," Rob Hartnett, of Coral, said.

Although the winner is entered for the Martell Grand National at Aintree next month, Downen will not decide for at least a week whether to run The Fellow. No horse has won both races since Golden Miller in 1934. Ladbrokes make The Fellow 7-1 favourite, with a run, for Aintree, while William Hill and Coral both keep Double Silk, comfortable winner of yesterday's Christmas Foxhunter Chase, as their market leader.



Kondrat poses with The Fellow after gaining a hard-fought victory in yesterday's Gold Cup



Thousands of readers have already taken the chance to play our new cricket game. In *The Times* tomorrow, another chance to win a trip for two to any Test match in the world next year by picking the best First Class XI this summer.

By Raymond Keene

Today's problem is from the game Lutikov - Petraev, USSR 1970. The black king has become dangerously boxed in. How did White now finish off?

Solution, page 35

Raymond Keene, page 7

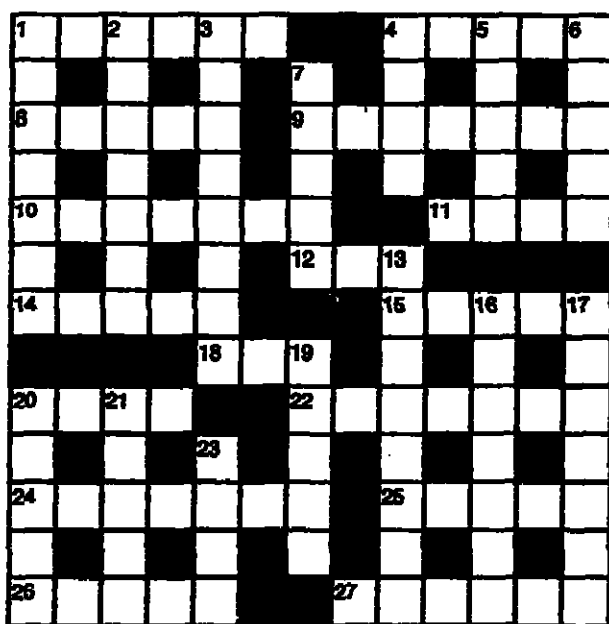
By Philip Howard

MENSEFUL
a. Intelligent
b. Neat and tidy
c. A double bushel of grain

MENNONITE
a. A fossilised crustacean
b. Black granite
c. A sectarian

AVODIRE
a. A legal spokesperson
b. A French metaphor
c. A light hardwood
GARBANZO
a. A fan of Greta Garbo
b. Musical acceleration
c. The chick-pea

Answers on page 35



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No 116

ACROSS

- 1 Mired cleric (6)
- 2 Royal consort (5)
- 3 German submarine (1-4)
- 4 Of no importance (7)
- 5 Take prisoner (7)
- 6 Article given as security (4)
- 7 Sharp-pointed fastener (3)
- 8 Accommodation (5)
- 9 Player (5)
- 10 Afternoon meal (3)
- 11 Partner (4)
- 12 Stage (event); advance (cause) (7)
- 13 Ravage, plunder (7)
- 14 Omit (vowel) (5)
- 15 Obtain confirmation (5)
- 16 Member of Garter order (6)

DOWN

- 1 Nightclub steward (7)
- 2 Astrological sign, Oct/Nov (7)
- 3 Fit of passion (8)
- 4 Abandon (4)
- 5 Heather, heath shrub (5)
- 6 Stocking material (5)
- 7 Highly inclined; drench (5)
- 8 French Emperor (8)
- 9 Decorative design on leather (7)
- 10 Return for a second term (2-5)
- 11 Put in for job (5)
- 12 Clare-producing area (5)
- 13 Small sample of food or experience (5)
- 14 Cawing bird (4)

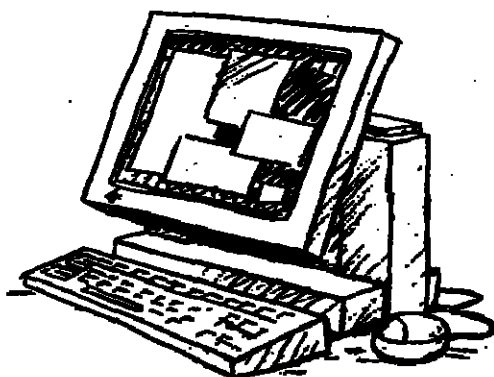
SOLUTION TO NO 115

ACROSS: 1 Patriarchy 2 Giblets 3 Noise 10 Twee 11 Bigamist 13 Trade 14 Time 16 Carnival 17 Hasp 20 Large 21 Invoice 22 Difference

DOWN: 1 Piglet 2 Table manners 3 Idea 4 Ruskin 5 Hen party 6 Civilisation 7 Nestle 12 Beriberi 13 Tickle 15 Tariff 18 Piece 19 Over

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British shed

By Philip Pass

MORE than 750 jobs were announced by British Steel yesterday in a move which is expected to save the company from its dire financial state. The closure of three steelworks in South Wales, the closure of three steelworks in Scotland, and the closure of three steelworks in Northern Ireland, are part of a plan to reduce the company's costs. The plan also includes the closure of three steelworks in the Midlands and the closure of three steelworks in the North East. The plan is expected to save the company £100 million a year. The plan is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

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